2026 Local Election Manifesto

We, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen Melle, see our town as a place where environmental responsibility, social justice and economic prudence are inextricably linked.

Our aim is to develop Melle into an inclusive and sustainable town that consistently pursues climate protection, preserves its natural resources whilst acting financially prudently, and promotes sustainable economic development. In doing so, we are committed to citizen-focused policies that set an example: transparent in our actions, fair in our dealings and sustainable in every decision.

A secure and clean energy supply forms the foundation of our strategy for the future. That is why we are resolutely driving forward the expansion of renewable energies such as photovoltaics, wind power, biogas and geothermal energy, and strengthening decentralised structures that combine security of supply with regional value creation. Our path to climate neutrality is clearly structured. With an interim review in 2031 and a binding roadmap up to 2040, we create reliability through concrete milestones and verifiable targets.

At the same time, we protect our natural spaces as a precious asset for future generations and promote culture and social welfare as an expression of our identity. We take a holistic approach to utilities, heating, electricity, social infrastructure and mobility, ensuring they are barrier-free, affordable and accessible to all. This creates a city that enables participation and safeguards quality of life.

Our policies are built on a solid financial foundation. We manage our finances responsibly, use funding strategically and allocate public resources with foresight. In doing so, we ensure fair taxes and transparent fee structures to keep the burden on citizens as low as possible. Through necessary investments and clear communication, we build trust and shape Melle into a liveable city – today, tomorrow and in the future.

Protect Melle

Climate protection – Environment – Nature – Water

The Earth on which we live provides us with what we need to survive. We must protect it. We want to leave future generations an environment in which they can live well and safely. Climate change will present us with enormous challenges! Slowing down climate change and halting it as early as possible is our most urgent goal; to this end, we are strengthening local climate resilience. Yet species extinction also threatens our livelihoods – quietly, insidiously, and no less dangerously.

1. Climate protection

- Consistent reduction of the carbon footprint of municipal buildings and the vehicle fleet through the use of green electricity
- Through funding and participation in local renewable energy projects, we ensure value creation in our region

2. Nature, environmental and species conservation

- As part of the 'Lower Saxony Approach', promoting near-natural riverbanks for otters and beavers with broad acceptance from all stakeholder groups
- Insect-friendly habitats on ground-mounted solar panels
- Promotion of hedges and flower strips along roadsides
- Municipal packaging tax on single-use packaging
- Minimisation of light pollution

3. Water

- Groundwater depletion, heavy rainfall, droughts and flooding require new approaches, such as rainwater retention via cisterns
- A rethink of water management. The motto "The water must go!" is outdated – learn from successful local authorities
- Expand the availability of drinking water and maintain its quality

And what does this mean specifically for Melle?

- Close support for the “Else 29” maintenance association (responsible for flowing water bodies) in drawing up the annual maintenance plan
- Implementation of all applicable guidelines for water bodies and riparian areas; reducing exemptions to a minimum
- Financial, personnel and technical support for watercourse maintenance enables adaptation to future requirements
- Climate-adapted water management and near-natural watercourse habitats
- Preservation of hedgerows, consistent replanting of trees
- Maintain free energy advice, promotion of natural gardens

Together for Melle

Prioritising education and care – Strong community groups – Cultural life

We are committed to a strong community and a liveable, diverse town for all generations, where education, health, youth, sport, culture, tourism, community groups and social cohesion are promoted. A vibrant cultural scene and our town festivals also enrich life in Melle. They encourage interaction, strengthen cohesion and provide space for creativity and engagement. Our town centre should be attractive and future-proof. This includes a diverse retail sector, a thriving hospitality industry and an inviting public space with green areas, play facilities and a high quality of life. For our children, education is the key to a self-determined life and to active participation in society and the workplace. That is why we are consistently driving forward the sustainable refurbishment and further development of our schools and nurseries. With modern, high-quality facilities and attractive outdoor areas, we are creating learning environments where children can feel at home and flourish.

1. Education

- Working with schools to implement a flexible and varied
- all-day programme, including support, sports and creative activities
- Good, inclusive and reliable holiday care
- Nursery and childcare places tailored to demand
- Promote good staffing and workplace facilities with qualified
- educational professionals
- Promote and support adult education centre programmes,
- particularly language courses

2. Health and Care

- Expand day and short-term care places in all districts, including for children and young adults
- Basic amenities in all districts
- (groceries, pharmacy, doctor, cash machine)
- Expand the public health service’s networking activities
- Strengthen the social psychiatric service
- Strengthen integration advisory boards and officers
- Promote preventive care and enable independent living at home
- for as long as possible
- Promotion, support and integration of
- nursing staff with a migrant background
- Support and strengthen palliative care and
- hospice work in Melle
- Promote and support advice centres for people in need,
- debt counselling and addiction support
- Provide citizens with transparent information on benefits and
- assist them with applications
- Support for people with disabilities

3. Children and young people

- Further developing inclusive learning environments
- Providing personnel and conceptual support for open youth work and youth centres,
- including those in the city’s neighbourhoods

4. Sport and community clubs

- Promoting small-scale sports facilities
- (e.g. volleyball, boules, pump tracks, padel courts)
- High-quality leisure, counselling and support services
- for children, young people and families
- Maintain and renovate outdoor swimming pools and equip them with solar panels and heat collectors
- Continue to provide diverse support to clubs
- under the municipal sports facilities funding programme
- Support local history and tourism associations, choirs, amateur theatre groups, local history rooms
- and neighbourhood networks

5. Culture and tourism

- Support and further develop town festivals
- Support arts and crafts, facilitate exhibitions and vernissages
- Cultivate a culture of remembrance
- Keep the town centre and village centres attractive for retail and catering, facilitate outdoor dining and street cafés
- Develop Melle as a destination for cycle tourism

And what does this mean in concrete terms for Melle?

- Rapidly renovate primary schools such as GS Eicken and GS Buer
- Promote career guidance and close cooperation with the local business community, agriculture and the skilled trades, for example through the Career Guidance Centre and partnerships with the vocational school
- Further strengthen the library as an important centre for education and community engagement
- Establish 'care roundtables' to bring together all stakeholders in the local community
- Maintain or increase budgetary funding for social services
- Support youth parliaments, forums and representative bodies; introduce a Youth Climate Council in the long term
- Continue the refurbishment programme for sports halls in accordance with our list of priorities
- Continue the Town Hall Steps concerts
- Refurbish the Schürenkamp Theatre and expand it as required
- Support and expand the Arts and Culture Card
- Develop, design and designate sustainable motorhome sites in all districts/locations
- Firework-free zones as protected sanctuaries for people and animals and environmentally friendly alternatives to private fireworks, e.g. a drone show for everyone
- Promotion and support of free swimming lessons for children and holiday care, free access to swimming pools for primary school children
- Senior Citizens' Pass to provide support for those on low pensions

Melle is building the future

Liveable housing – climate-friendly construction – a strong community.

Melle is growing, but not at any cost. Our mission statement, "Living together in Melle – recognising diversity, enabling participation", also applies to urban development. We prioritise inner-city development over outer-city expansion, regeneration over new-build, and green spaces over grey. Affordable housing for all, climate-neutral neighbourhoods and a resilient infrastructure (e.g. an efficient fire service) are the pillars of our strategy. We design construction projects to be participatory, accessible and in line with clear environmental standards.

1. Housing

- 25% social housing quota in new development areas, activating vacant properties
- Prioritising inner-city development through infill, closing gaps between buildings, conversion of retail spaces
- Alternative forms of housing, e.g. "Young people buying older properties" schemes,
- multi-generational homes, accessible shared accommodation projects
- Shelters in public buildings (e.g. town hall),
- Support for the homeless with a focus on women

2. Climate & Infrastructure

- Communicate the results of municipal heating planning,
- Mandatory solar panels/heat pumps for new builds/renovations
- Greening of noise barriers, peat-free municipality,
- Prioritise ecological materials in construction projects
- Set up energy-self-sufficient sewage treatment plants
- Expand the drinking water network in collaboration with other local authorities
- Accessible bus stops, safe cycle paths

3. Safety & Community

- Ensure fire services are equipped to meet needs, promote further training and volunteering (youth fire brigades, THW)
- Annual disaster preparedness day in cooperation with rescue and
- emergency services, the Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) and fire services
- Promote the Mobile Rescuer app, expand and publicise AED (Automated External Defibrillator) locations, create shelters in new public buildings
- Intergenerational meeting places, first aid courses in schools,
- support for democracy projects

And what does that mean specifically for Melle?

- Consistently apply ecological guidelines (e.g. 100% PV on new municipal buildings), levy property tax C on undeveloped but buildable plots
- Involve citizens early in planning processes (e.g. town hall, industrial estates), use plain language in participatory formats
- Expanding support services for the homeless, accessible playgrounds and
- public toilets, inclusive design spaces
- Valuing the fire service and supporting their voluntary work
- Pilot projects for climate-neutral neighbourhoods, car-free estates and urban green spaces (e.g. 'Edible City')

Melle on the Move

For mobility that brings everyone together safely!

The people of Melle know where there is room for improvement and where the danger spots are on Melle's roads and paths. That is why we involve them in decision-making as responsible citizens. Options for private transport by bike and car are cleverly and sustainably combined with public transport and tailored to meet demand. Transport routes are designed to be accessible so that everyone can participate in social life.

We will provide transport routes for the most vulnerable among us, enabling them to reach nurseries, schools, care homes and all other public destinations safely. VISION ZERO and COLLISION ZERO are our goals, so that there are no more accidents or collisions on the roads.

1. Private transport

- Consistent designation of cycle lanes
- Establishing school routes so that parents no longer need to drive their children
- Improving road safety, including structural measures, at nurseries, schools,
- care homes and public buildings
- Widespread provision of secure bicycle parking facilities

2. Public transport

- Ensuring and further developing on-demand transport
- Promoting inter-municipal transport networks
- Electrifying buses in Melle and installing charging stations

- Developing the connection between the Central Bus Station (ZOB)
- and the railway station

3. Electric mobility

- The municipal vehicle fleet will be systematically electrified
- Promote charging points in the city centre and all districts in line with demand – prioritising underserved areas without public charging points

And what does this mean specifically for Melle?

- '30 km/h' speed limit across the entire urban area
- Further develop and promote Lütti
- Consistently improve safety at accident-prone locations
- School routes (including cycle paths and footpaths) are prioritised in winter maintenance
- Direct democracy: promoting and supporting dialogue with parents, schools and transport associations
- Comprehensive and timely implementation of the cycling strategy
- Accessibility in the city centre and neighbourhoods
- Transport policy demands from associations and citizens are valued, reviewed and, where necessary, brought into the political discourse

Melle invests

Local strength. Climate-friendly investments. Transparent administration.

Melle is a town with innovative businesses, a strong agricultural sector and an administration that must act with a view to the future. We are committed to sound finances, fair taxes and an economy that takes ecological and social responsibility. Local value creation, digital participation and an independent energy supply are our levers for making Melle more resilient – for generations to come.

1. Economy and Finance

- Promote climate-friendly investments, utilise funding schemes, strengthen ecological agriculture (e.g. agri-PV, organic circular economy)
- Expand regional economic cycles through organic food in canteens, support for farm shops and producer cooperatives
- Set rates for property and business rates in line with needs, tackle vacant properties, designate business parks to meet demand, actively attract new businesses that improve the current mix of industries

2. Energy and Climate Resilience

- Drive forward local energy projects through community energy cooperatives, incorporating wind, PV and heat with local tradespeople
- Reforest our forests in a climate-resilient manner to act as natural CO_2 sinks
- Municipal waste prevention programme with incentives for businesses and households
- Harness synergies between agriculture, trades, associations, voluntary work and the recycling industry

3. Digitalisation and Administration

- Continue to prioritise fibre-optic expansion as a location factor; set up public Wi-Fi hotspots
- Simplify digital services; central app for citizen services; machine-readable data; plain language; multilingual
- Use open source and AI to achieve IT independence and cost reductions

And what does that mean specifically for Melle?

- Pop-up shops for sustainable start-ups; co-working spaces
- Prioritise social/environmental/local criteria in tenders
- Strengthen local energy projects (wind/PV/heat), e.g. through direct connections to industrial or commercial enterprises
- Accelerate digitalisation, simplify administrative processes (e.g. online applications processed within 24 hours), develop

staff digital skills
- Provide long-term support for the climate network
- Expand and utilise “StadtLand.Funk”
- Parking scheme with revenue for local projects (e.g. cycling infrastructure)
- Consistently implement existing guidelines and regulations and allocate funds for monitoring
- Develop the “Grüne Kirchbreede” industrial estate primarily for businesses based in Melle

A Melle for everyone

Strengthening democracy. Embracing diversity. Enabling participation.

Melle is a diverse town with strong neighbourhoods, committed residents and a vibrant civil society. We see the existing municipal mission statement – “Living together in Melle – recognising diversity, enabling participation” – as a mandate to put this vision into practice through concrete measures and to develop it further. We stand up against hatred and hate speech, and for decent coexistence, including in political discourse. Racism, extremism and all forms of discrimination have no place in our town.

1. Democracy, participation and political culture

- Transparency regarding political action and comprehensible decision-making
- Democratic education, political awareness and media literacy to resolutely counter disinformation
- A culture of respectful debate in which differing opinions are heard and discussed objectively

2. Participation, equality and anti-discrimination

- Equality as the norm and the promotion of equal representation of all genders and population groups in politics, administration and public institutions. We have been leading the way in this area for decades with our own women’s and diversity charters.
- Protection against all forms of discrimination and violence, and support for self-determined lifestyles
- Opportunities for children, young people, families, older people and people with disabilities to have a say and shape their own lives
- We are in favour of gender-neutral language and promote its consistent use

3. Integration, migration and living together

- Real prospects of staying for immigrants
- Promotion of education and language acquisition as the key to social and professional participation
- Support for voluntary work with refugees and local integration initiatives

And what does this mean specifically for Melle?

- Municipal information must be available digitally, be accessible, easy to understand and available in multiple languages
- The citizens’ advice bureaux for in-person consultations, including those without an appointment, should be retained
- Expansion of dialogue on direct democracy through neighbourhood forums and the extension of digital participation formats
- Strengthening voluntary work as a cornerstone of social cohesion, for example by expanding the remit and resources of the volunteering officer
- Promoting democracy, participation and diversity projects, as well as women’s and equality networks, particularly for associations, initiatives and educational institutions, for example the Democracy Festival and Climate Festival
- Establishment of an independent local anti-discrimination office to serve as a contact and advice centre
- Free hygiene products, accessible and gender-neutral toilets and changing rooms in public facilities and secondary schools
- A visible commitment to diversity, e.g. by flying the rainbow flag
- Greater involvement of the Senior Citizens’ and Disabled Persons’ Advisory Council, as well as the Youth Parliament, in political decision-making processes
- Establishment of open meeting spaces to promote mutual understanding
- Democracy Square in Grönenberg Park, as a small open-air stage with stone seating for small events without major barriers

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