

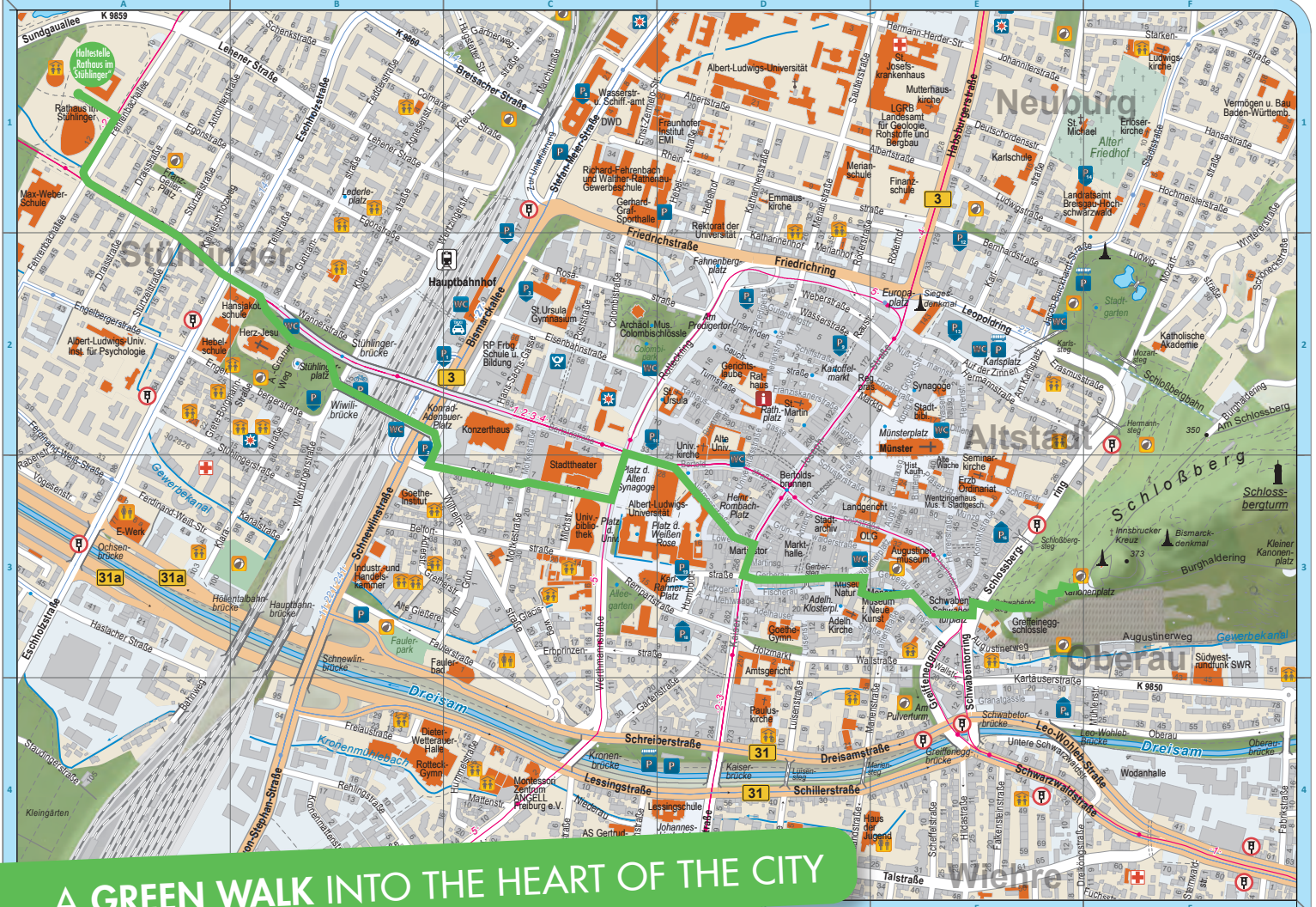


THE ROAD TO SUSTAINABILITY

GREEN CITY FREIBURG



www.greencity.freiburg.de



A GREEN WALK INTO THE HEART OF THE CITY

First, this will definitely be worth it – the **plus-energy town hall** two stops from Freiburg’s Central Station is not only an eye catcher, but also the “first public building in the world to meet the net plus energy standard.” A look to the photovoltaic modules on the facade shows that this building does not consume any fossil energy. Wondering where all the parking spaces are? Most people come to this workplace **by bike or tram**. The city actively supports this as an employer. The town hall, located in the Stühlinger district (Rathaus im Stühlinger), lies at the intersection of four tram lines.

The city also cares about its employees’ children: The small building behind the town hall is their preschool. This is yet one more example of what makes Freiburg the “**city of short distances**” – convenient and eco-friendly. For those riding the tram or the railways, the short distance to the city center runs past apartment buildings from the 1950s, now renovated and well-insulated. The rustic avenue offers plenty of space for pedestrians and cyclists.

Two bridges lead us across the tracks of the Central Station into Freiburg’s **historic downtown** – one for trams and one for bicycle traffic. We now approach the **40-hectar (99-acre) pedestrian zone**. It begins at Old Synagogue Square (Platz

der Alten Synagoge) – taking in the view today, it is hard to believe that the university and theater were still separated by a busy four-lane road as recently as 2014. Even the gleaming black **Goethe library**, one of the largest scientific libraries in Europe, is a low-energy building.

Look carefully within the city center and you may even find the **hydroelectric station**, which generates 100,000 kilowatt hours of electricity every year. Here’s a hint: Just follow the brook to where the industrial stream has been channeling water into the city since the Middle Ages.

Those who are up for a bit more exercise can head up the **Schlossberg** and enjoy the view over the whole city. The tree-covered hill is impossible to miss, and pathways snake up to the **Kanonenplatz** lookout point. This nature preserve is where the **Freiburger Bergwald forest** begins. The forest has long since reclaimed most of the remains of the extensive Vauban fortifications. A few of these remains can still be seen today, where plaques mark each part of the larger ensemble. With a bit of luck, you’ll also run into some Skudde sheep on the Schlossberg, which play a key role in maintaining the region’s ecological balance.



[Green City Freiburg]



Martin W. W. Horn
Mayor
City of Freiburg
im Breisgau

EVERYTHING IS GOING GREEN

Cities have an important role to play in **reaching climate targets** and implementing climate protection measures. Key paths and serious investments in this area are now being established in **local climate protection and environmental policies**. However, the goal of a climate-neutral community can only be achieved when we keep pulling together with our citizens as well as with all key players in politics, business and the sciences.

The Green City Freiburg's ambitious **sustainability policy** has received worldwide attention and recognition. Our "green" industrial park, our flagship eco-friendly district and a town hall that supplies 100% of its own energy needs are just three examples of the numerous measures we've taken to protect the climate and our environment.

After all, it is the people of our city, great and small, who spur us on with their passion and commitment to keep developing our sustainable city.

Energy and climate protection

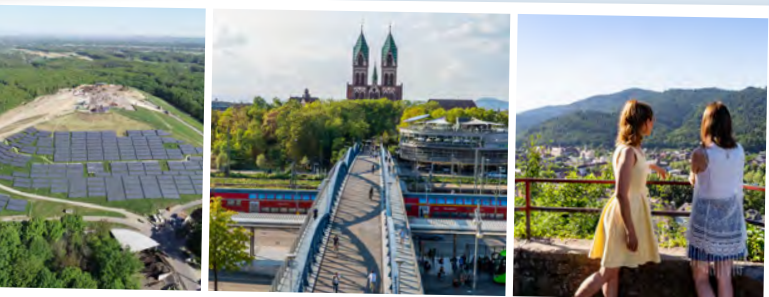
Every year, emissions of climate-damaging gases increase, endangering our climate and also our future. Even though progress with Germany's energy transition is slow, the city is holding fast to its climate-protection goal – and even stepped up its commitment in 2021: The city council voted unanimously to reduce Freiburg's emissions to zero by the year 2038. The goal is to cover 100% of the city's energy needs with renewable energies by this time. City climate-protection projects like the "Your Roof Can do More!" solar campaign or the Green Industry Park initiative are supplemented by many private projects initiated by residents or local companies.

Environmental economy & research

Sustainability and innovation aren't contradictions – they are interdependent. Many Freiburg companies and institutions view environmental protection and sustainability as the foundation for an innovative economy. The city's "green production" and the many local clean and green tech startups prove this. From Fraunhofer Institutes and the university to local manufacturers and service providers to zero-emission hotels and workshops specializing in environmental technologies or the Smart Green Accelerator – all the right know-how is here. Innovation and technology transfer are also a product of cooperation between the city and the scientific community: The world's first passive high-rise in the Weingarten district is one example of this. Since 2008, the Green City Cluster has united stakeholders in the environmental and renewable energy business, while the Green Industry Park initiative launched in 2014 provides a source for the ongoing future-proof development of industrial and commercial areas in Freiburg in cooperation with regional companies.

Green Industry Park

The Green Industry Park Freiburg initiative launched in 2014 supports the continuing development of Freiburg's industrial areas "Nord" and "Hochdorf" into pioneering, sustainable and energy- and resource-efficient locations together with local companies. The initiative focuses on building a network of committed companies and working together to identify opportunities for cooperation and optimization in the areas of corporate environmental and climate protection. The joint development and practical realization of new, innovative projects is an important step in meeting the future challenge of "climate neutrality."



Environmental protection and nature conservation

With over 5.000 hectares (12,350 acres) of forests and its many meadows, pastures, and vineyards, Freiburg is a "green city" in the truest sense as well as a biodiversity hub. This area of the city includes the Schauinsland at an altitude of 1.250 m (4100 ft) in the Black Forest and the Mooswald at the edge of the Upper Rhine Plain at 250 m (820 ft). Nature areas and the region's many traditional cultivated landscapes are home to an extraordinarily diverse range of living environments for plant and animal species in the area of the city. Freiburg maintains and supports this natural heritage through numerous protected areas, state-of-the-art landscape management, a citywide habitat network, and funding measures for species conservation.

Livable spaces

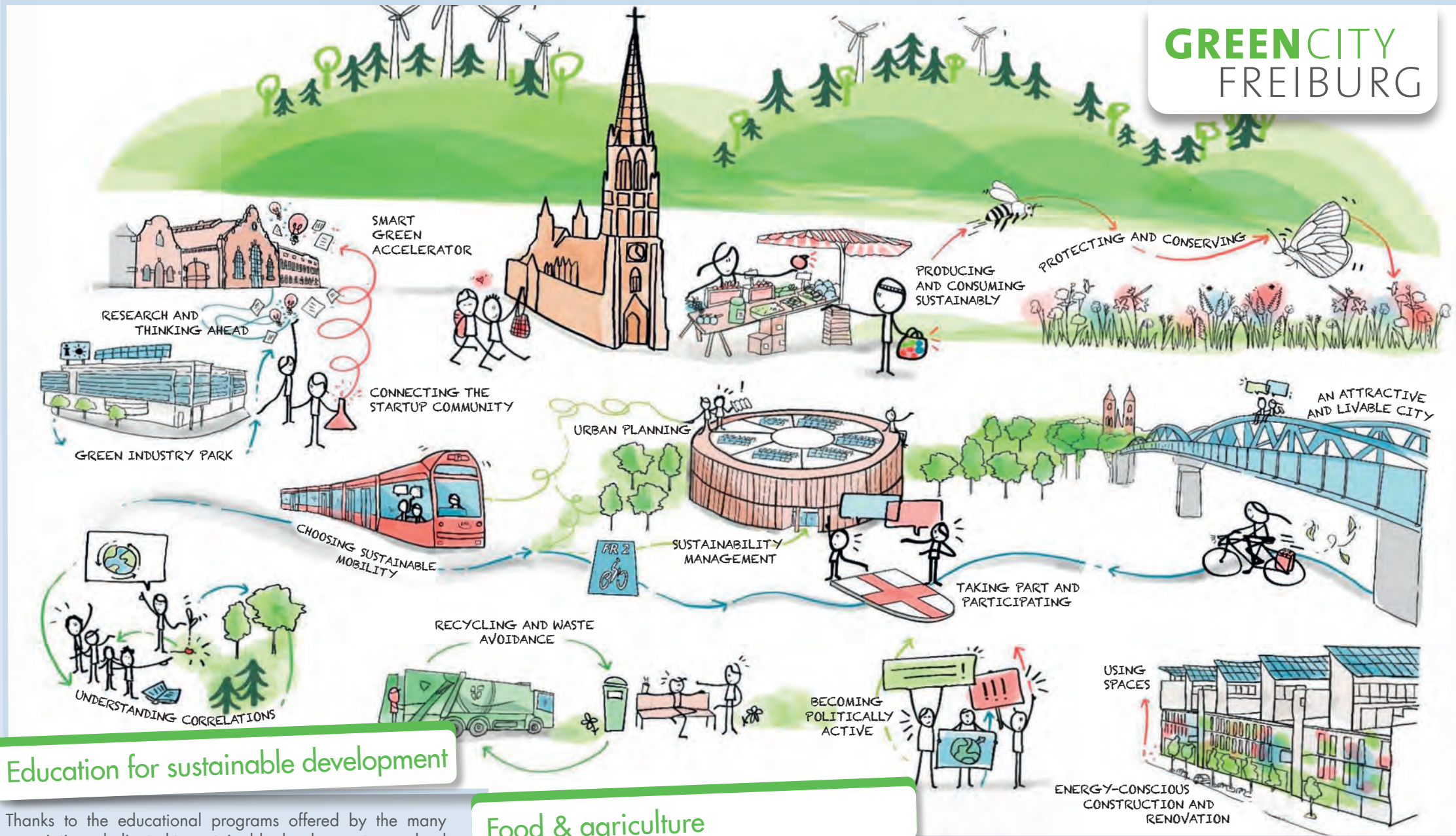
High quality for Freiburg's public spaces is important for the urban planning of the city. This means creating places and spaces that offer a high quality of stay and make it possible for people to meet. One possible candidate are the banks of the river Dreisam, which will become even more attractive once the federal highway is rerouted to the planned city tunnel. Other possibilities include common areas in larger apartment complexes or green areas and spaces like Old Synagogue Square, which was occupied by a four-lane road until a few years ago.

Mobility and transport

In the 70s, while most cities were busy tearing out tram lines to make room for more cars, Freiburg blocked off the Münster Square and the city center from general motor traffic and began setting up pedestrian zones and bicycle lanes. The city has the stated goal of providing a tram stop within 400 m (1,200 ft) of every apartment and its network of tram lines is constantly being expanded. Its concept of the "city of short distances" means infrastructure such as shops, preschools and green areas within walking distance for everyone. Efforts are also being made to achieve the large-scale introduction of a 30 km/h (20 mph) speed limit. For this purpose, Freiburg has joined other major cities to promote the idea of a nationwide model project.

Citizen commitment

Freiburgers are convinced and dedicated to change: It's time for better bike lanes! And solar panels on the roof of the light rail bridge! It's time for the new, climate-neutral district with 50% subsidized housing – the idea is an exciting one for organizations, private individuals, cooperatives and district associations, who are working hard to make it a reality. This also means people are busy planting trees, beautifying local playgrounds and running cooperatives for generating renewable energy. This is why citizen participation is so important in Freiburg, and hardworking citizens have an address they can turn to: The "Freiburg packt an" („Freiburg takes on the task“) project.



Sustainable urban development

The city keeps growing – and so does its resource consumption. The cost of living is rising and traffic density is increasing. Is it better to cultivate green islands in the city or to move them out to the suburbs? Providing attractive alternatives to cars may cost money, but being able to live car-free will save residents money as well. In order to ensure a sustainable quality of life in Freiburg and to uphold our global responsibility, major political and administrative challenges have to be overcome. Sustainable development means not only climate protection, but also social justice, participation in public life for everyone, the conservation of natural common goods and the promotion of culture and the sciences – the Municipal Council has decided on 59 goals to show the way to a more sustainable Freiburg.

Education for sustainable development

Thanks to the educational programs offered by the many associations dedicated to sustainable development, preschool children learn how important good, vital soil is through activities like taking a closer look at the life of earthworms – sponsored by the City of Freiburg. The Ökostation in the Seepark, Freiburg's environmental education center, is a mecca for school groups from around the world. The city's educational offerings also include electricity saving checks and advisory services for building energy renovation. The WaldHaus located towards Günterstal also offers educational events focused on the topics of sustainability and the forest.

Food & agriculture

Another concern of city administrators is to promote a regional food supply. This starts with the city's own cafeterias, where the menus are "meat sensitive" and regional. In 2019, the Municipal Council decided to switch school cafeterias to regional organic foods. The strategy of seasonal and regional food supply is supported by the "Freiburg Nutrition Council," which unites experts, consumers and farmers from Freiburg and the surrounding areas. The strategy also has the goal of

promoting local farms, which are often small or medium-sized operations. Along with the mobility footprint involved, the production of food and consumer products generates large amounts of greenhouse gases – often in countries with lower social and environmental standards. For this reason, the City of Freiburg works to create citizen awareness using a range of promotional and event programs.

Waste and the circular economy

At 70%, Freiburg's recycling rate is very high. City waste management services are constantly working to improve this rate. Why? Because waste is a resource. Even decades later, trash in the former landfill generates biogas that is captured and used – a mountain of available energy that also comes equipped with a gigantic solar array. The city also uses organic waste to create biogas. Recycling points further ensure that clothing, glass and electronic devices are reused instead of being incinerated along with unusable garbage. In order to combat packaging waste, waste management services have introduced the "Freiburg Cup": a reusable, return deposit cup for drinks to go. In this way, the City of Freiburg pursues a waste management hierarchy that prioritizes waste avoidance above waste recycling and disposal.

Tours, guided tours and other options

SERVICE FOR VISITING PROFESSIONALS

Are you interested in **urban sustainability** and would like to visit Freiburg, but need some assistance planning your itinerary? Want to get to know all of the Green City's many facets and you are looking for a suitable guide for your group or delegation?

On our website, www.greencity.freiburg.de, you can find the contact information for the representatives of our official Green City specialist agency partners, who have been working closely with the city of Freiburg for many years now. In cooperation with the City of Freiburg, the partner agencies handle guided

tours, talks, workshops, and professional development training opportunities covering every aspect of the Green City.

All of these agencies fulfill defined quality standards and receive regular training covering new concepts, resolutions, and developments in Freiburg's individual areas of focus, which ensures that the information representatives share with Freiburg's (professional) visitors is constantly up-to-date and that our guests are always in the best professional hands.

For more information look up our agency partners at www.greencity.freiburg.de

Contact information

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Contact information for companies in the environmental and renewable energy sectors:

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