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Climate and environment

Awards ceremony in Erfurt: Bocholt retains its title in the STADTRADELN competition

First place among local authorities with between 50,000 and 99,999 residents // Head of Urban Planning Dave Welling and Sascha Terörde receive the award in Erfurt

The town of Bocholt has defended its title in the nationwide STADTRADELN campaign. With 721,130 kilometres, it once again took first place among municipalities with between 50,000 and 99,999 residents. Dave Welling, Head of Urban Planning, and Sascha Terörde from the Climate Protection Unit accepted the award on Wednesday in Erfurt.

The most successful local authorities in the 2026 competition were honoured on 25 November in the Kaisersaal in Thuringia's capital. For Bocholt, this marks its second consecutive victory. The town had already won the medium-sized towns category in 2025, and in previous years had finished runner-up several times behind Rheine. This means the "mission to defend the title" has been accomplished - a goal the town had set out to achieve when it launched its call for cyclists to take part in the spring.

From 1 to 21 May, 4,067 active cyclists in 209 teams took to the roads in Bocholt. That is around 34 per cent more than last year and a record number. A total of 721,130 kilometres were clocked up across 73,073 rides. In second place in this size category is the district of Weißenburg-Gunzenhausen with 696,800 kilometres, followed by Tübingen in third place with 685,154 kilometres. The weather had a significant impact on the final tally. On dry days, the people of Bocholt clocked up an average of between 20,000 and 30,000 kilometres, whilst on rainy days the figure was around 10,000. The total distance therefore remained slightly below the previous year's record of 745,492 kilometres. Nevertheless, it was enough to secure top spot with a lead of a good 24,000 kilometres.

"More than 4,000 residents of Bocholt have won this prize. "We were simply there to collect it in Erfurt," said Dave Welling, Head of Urban Planning, "our two consecutive victories show that cycling is part of everyday life for many people in Bocholt - whether on their way to work, school or the shops."

Once again, the Mariengymnasium fielded the largest and strongest team. In the first half of the campaign, the school was locked in a close race with the St. Josef Gymnasium, after which it steadily extended its lead. With 640 active cyclists, the number of participants was around 50 per cent higher than last year. Together, they covered 90,489 kilometres - an average of 141.4 kilometres per person.

The highest per-capita total among the award-winning teams was achieved by the te Wilde family. The five family members covered a total of 2,667 kilometres, averaging a good 533 kilometres per person. Equally persistent were the "ACyclists" from DJK 97/30 Lowick, whose five athletes covered 2,432 kilometres - an average of 486.5 kilometres per person. Among the companies, the team from Flender came out on top: 90 participants clocked up 25,751 kilometres. The city had already honoured the most successful teams and school classes on 16 July in front of the Historic Town Hall with certificates, prize money and special prizes.

The district of Borken was also honoured in Erfurt as the winner in its size category. Of the 2,855,040 kilometres covered in the district of Borken, around a quarter were cycled in Bocholt. Nationwide, around 1.3 million people from more than 3,100 local authorities took part in the Climate Alliance's 'STADTRADELN' campaign this year.

"Despite the many rainy days, more people took part than ever before. This is good news for climate protection in Bocholt%$, explains Sascha Terörde from the Climate Protection Unit at Bocholt Town Council.

The City of Bocholt would like to thank all the cyclists, team captains, as well as the schools, businesses, clubs and families who contributed to this success. Further information is available at www.bocholt.de/stadtradeln.



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City Planning Officer Dave Welling (1st from the right) and Sascha Terörde (2nd from the right) accepted the first-place award.