CRCLR Lab: on the grounds of the disused Krehl brewery in Neukölln, activists from the recycling sector are testing out the urban lifecycle of things.

Utilizing open spaces

Berlin is not just a testing ground for start-ups and creative people, but also a place where traditional companies choose to relocate their innovation centers in order find new stimulus for their business. This keeps the city constantly in motion. In the 1990s there were still plenty of vacant lots available for new things to appear. These days we need to find new usage concepts and Living Lab approaches for the increasingly few unused spaces remaining.

Clever planning

A 3D model of Berlin is available as open data: explore a realistic recreation of the city or make use of the data for your own purposes.

The interactive construction site atlas of infrest can be used by municipal infrastructure companies to ensure careful use of resources, and spare people’s nerves, when making changes to traffic and the life of the city.
Rethink the city
Berlin’s public administration is creating the legal and organizational framework for new city planning processes. The E-Government Act supports faster administrative processes and digitalizes communication between citizens and public offices. The Open Data Strategy sees the state of Berlin releasing a range of datasets that can be used by companies to develop new products and services. Berlin’s Digital Agenda and the Einstein Center Digital Future are already setting the tone for the future. The city will be one of the first in Germany to test the new 5G standard in several locations.

Participation
Citizen participation is a basic prerequisite for the Smart City concept to be successful: politicians and residents meet in public forums to discuss the future of their city. The mein-berlin.de platform provides ways to get citizens involved. Whilst district offices provide information online, e.g. about construction plans, neighborhood initiatives are coming together digitally to present their wide-ranging proposals.

A strong network bursting with ideas
2013 saw the establishment of a network that has grown to include more than 130 activists from the economic and research sectors as well as associations and start-ups. This network sees itself as a driver and partner of the state government in preparing Berlin for the future.

The city as a testbed
Concepts and services for the city of the future are tested in numerous pilot projects across Berlin. In particular, the ten future locations in Berlin act as a testbed for new ideas and technologies.

EUREF Campus
Covering around 5.5 hectares, the district around the historic Berlin Gasometer is the most cutting edge location in Germany for businesses in the energy, sustainability and mobility sectors. Its pioneering concept makes it a unique center in Europe for innovative future-oriented projects that are developed by a community of global players and start-ups along with research and educational institutions.

Sustainable neighborhoods
In many parts of the city, new approaches are being directly tested in cooperation with residents and international partners from the fields of science and economics to find the best solutions for a future-proof city.

A strategy for creating the city of tomorrow
Sustainable use of resources, socially responsible, economically prosperous, culturally diverse — these are the values that characterize Berlin. The Smart City strategy taken by Berlin has developed a model for how the city can function and its people can live together in a way that is able to deal with global challenges. The city has defined certain needs and goals in six different areas of activity which are being worked on by a combination of forces from the administration, economy, research and civil society sectors.

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The perfect ecosystem
Berlin’s appeal lies in its unfinished and liberal nature — this provides space for diversity in the desire to create and attracts some of the world’s most intelligent people. Not just founders, but also qualified specialists find excellent conditions for working and living in the city.

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