

## Eco-responsible

**Katowice is home to more than 300,000 people. It is also the heart of a metropolis with a population of 2 million. A city with a buoyant economy which over a few years has become a friendly place for both residents and tourists. The showcase of Katowice are activities undertaken for the ecology and the environment. It is one of the greenest cities in Poland.**

A dozen or so years ago, heavy industry, which developed in Katowice, had significant impact on the natural environment of the city and the region. However, a number of large projects and the development of environmental programmes for children and adults led to far-reaching changes, which are appreciated by the residents.

In recent years, Katowice has made enormous progress in terms of eco-responsibility. It was the first city in Poland to introduce the "Plan of Low-Emission Economy". The implementation of the plan contributes to improving air quality and energy security. The city keeps improving the efficiency of waste management. In addition, it is focused on the development of clean urban transport and a bicycle-sharing system. At present there are 52 stations in Katowice, where over 400 bikes (including cargo bikes) is available for use by the public. Most importantly, environmental models are passed on to children from an early age thanks to many educational programmes and cyclical events, such as the Family Picnic "Eco-responsibly".

Katowice is one of the greenest cities in Poland. Over 40% of its area is covered with forests, which along with parks and green squares are an excellent place for recreation and rest.

A green oasis in the centre of the capital of the Silesian Voivodeship is "Las Murckowski". It is a real gem of Katowice, where we can find even 300-year-old outstanding natural features and unique species of plants and animals. Another place, which is very popular among the residents, is the Valley of Three Ponds. This complex of gardens and ponds encourages active sporting activities. You can rent a canoe or spend time with children on the water playground.

Katowice continues to thrive and implement new environmental solutions that will further improve the quality of life in the city.