

Student-driven transformation towards sustainability at German universities

September 15th, 2015 | 32nd Cairo Climate Talks Johannes Geibel





Agenda

- Part 1: Sustainability, universities and students
- Part 2: Yes we change student initiative Greening the University e.V.
- Part 3: Fostering bottom-up transformation the activities of netzwerk n

Starting point - multiple crisis

- Anthropocene: climate change, biodiversity loss, soil degradation, over-acidification of the seas, social disparities, etc.
- Transformation of our society towards a sustainable development is urgently needed

Functions of universities

- role model and beacon
- knowledge producer
- education institution
- learning and living space

Are German universities as pioneers of SD?

Management (EMAS):

- roughly 20 out 450 universities
- below average over different institutions

Teaching (study programs):

- out of around 17000 study programs (HRK): > 1% with focus on SD
- around 2% with SD courses

Research:

 1/4 of public funded research institutions are contributing to key SD topics

Students as Change Agents

Booster: innovativeness, creativity, motivation

Lateral thinkers: acting crossways to the institutional structures

Authenticity: unselfishly engagement brings a lot of credibility

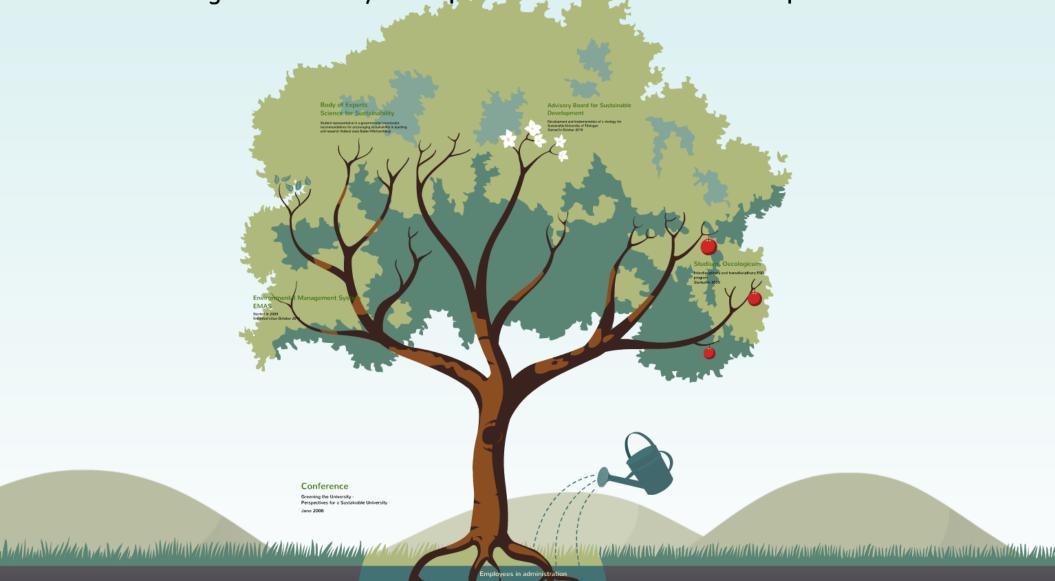
Political recognition: youth regarded as key "Change Agents" (Global Action Program on ESD)

Part 2: Yes we change bottum-up transformation at the University of Tübingen





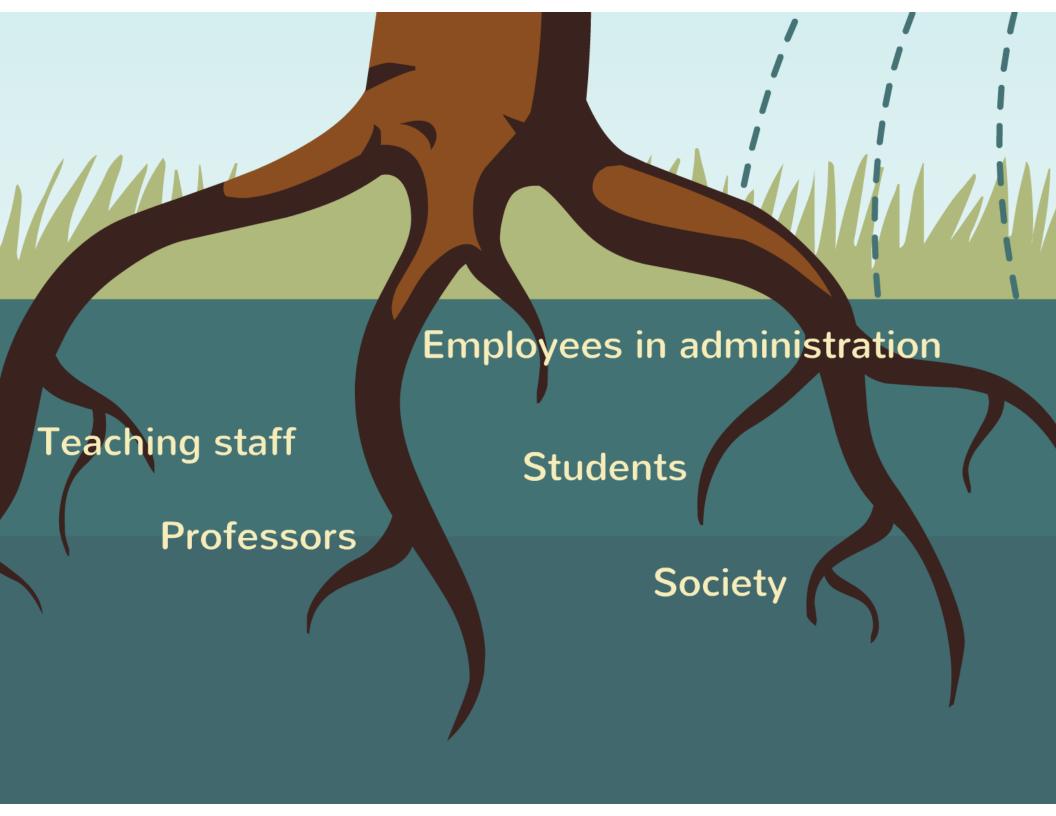
- Official Project of the UN-Decade Education for Sustainable Development
- Laureate of the 4th "Studentenwerk" Prize for Social Commitment
- Best-Practice of the "Hochschulrektorenkonferenz"
- Publications



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Conference

Greening the University - Perspectives for a Sustainable University

June 2008

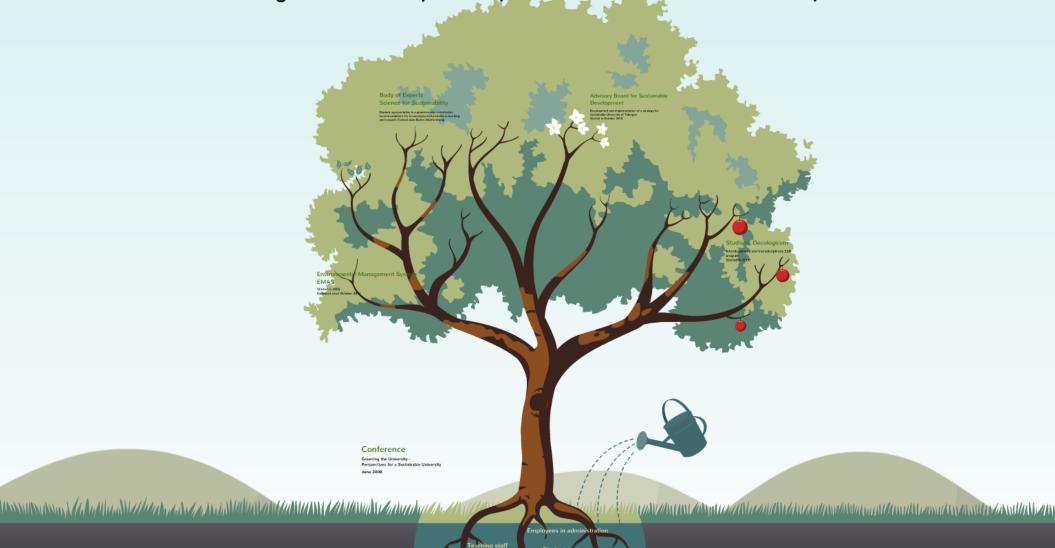






Body of Experts Science for Sustainability

Student representative in a governmental commission: recommendations for encouraging sustainability in teaching and research (federal state Baden-Württemberg)



Part 3: Fostering bottom-up transformation - the activities of netzwerk n e.V.



Bottom-up, whole-institution transformation towards SD of all universities across Germany through student-led initiatives

Exchanging knowledge and experience Increasing our transformative literacy

Shaping national educational and research policies

Information:
Website,
social media

Wandercoaching: Workshops, conferences

Interactive plattform

Position
paper For a
science
system in SD

conference, workshops, rough papers

Thank you very much for your attention!

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