

Climate-Newsletter #1

Abstract on the information event "Climate-Kickstarter" held on November 4th, 2021

Dear interested parties in climate,

a warm welcome to our first newsletter that is being published as part of the climate protection project of the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg. In the newsletter we will report on the progress of the project at more or less regular intervals.

As a lot of people were interested in the information event *Climate-Kickstarter – The University on its path to climate neutrality*, which was held on November 4th, 2021, but could not attend, we have a short summary for you in the following. In the appendix, you will find for one thing the slides of the presentation, and for another thing the protocol of the subsequent Q&A session.

(A note on transparency: For pragmatic reasons, the answers displayed are not reproduced literally, but rather summarized accordingly.)

These documents can be accessed via [the webpage](#) as well.

We are very happy about the positive feedback that has reached beforehand and following the event on the project. Also, we were delighted at the number of registrations that has reached us (more than 260), over 200 people have attended the meeting the respective morning.

The next bigger event will be held presumably at the end of February or in the beginning of March when we will release the greenhouse gas balance, the potential assessment, and the scenario development. You will receive the invitation to this event first via this newsletter.

We gladly receive further suggestions and requests. I am also available for questions and offers of cooperation!

You are welcome to forward this newsletter to your colleagues or recommend them to subscribe to it.

Kind regards and have a good week,

Anna Krämer [she/her]

Climate Protection Manager
COAST – Centre for Environment and Sustainability
Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg
Ammerländer Heerstr. 114-118
26129 Oldenburg

<https://uol.de/klimaschutz-nachhaltigkeit>

Climate Kickstarter

The University on its path to
climate neutrality

November 04 2021



Agenda

- Greeting
Prof. Dr. Ralph Bruder, President of the University Oldenburg
- City of Oldenburg – Climate Neutrality 2035
Peter Zenner, Climate Protection Manager of the City of Oldenburg
- University Oldenburg – Climate Neutrality 20xx?
Anna Krämer, Climate Protection Manager of the University Oldenburg
- The student‘ perspective
Jonas Maenicke & Helena Post, General Students Committee of the University Oldenburg
- Questions & Answers
Prof. Dr. Siebenhüner, Chair Ecological Economics (moderation)

Greeting



Prof. Dr. Ralph Bruder

President

University Oldenburg

City of Oldenburg – Climate Neutral 2035



Peter Zenner

Climate Protection Manager

City of Oldenburg

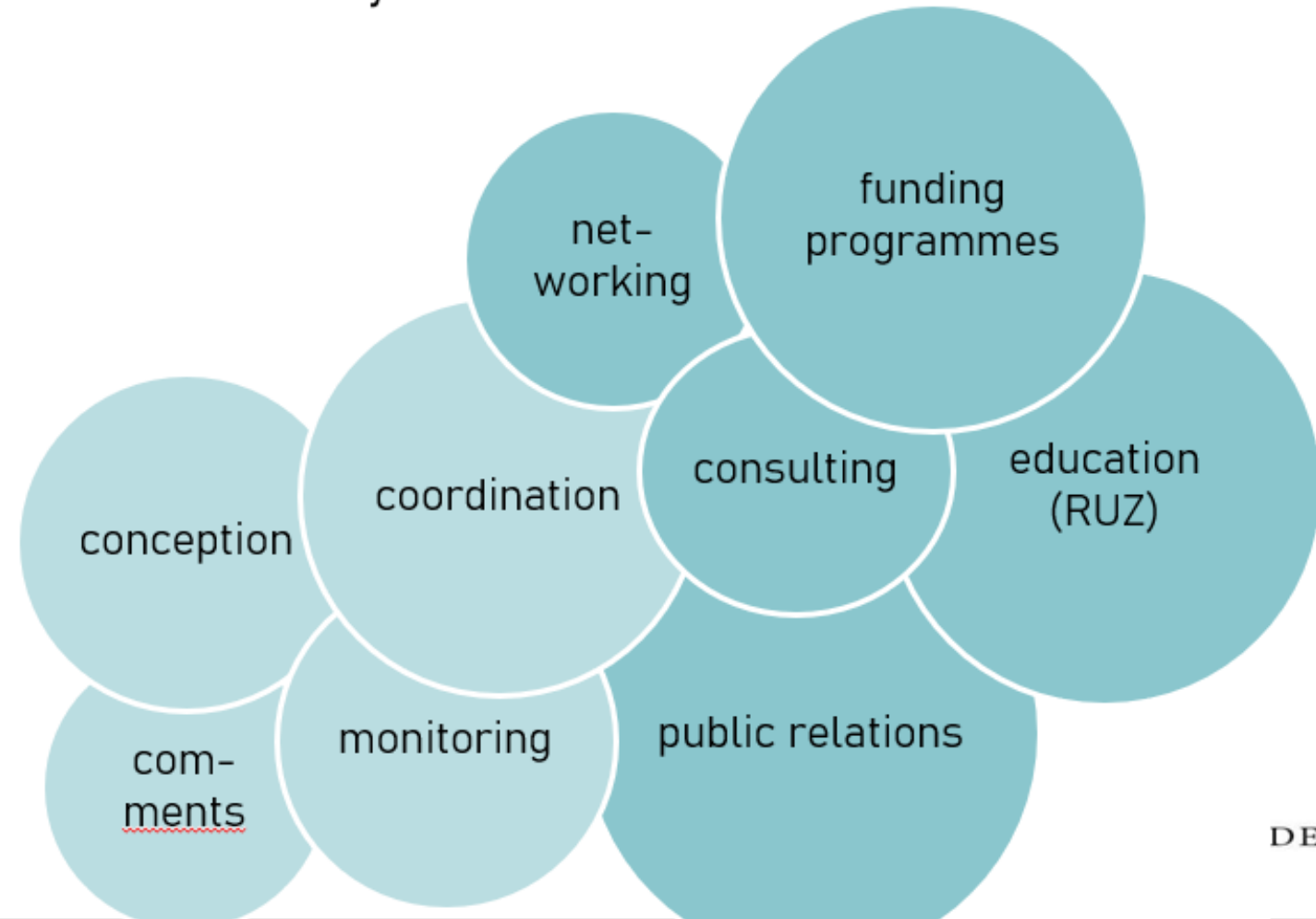


Oldenburg Climate Neutral 2035

Climate-Kickstarter – The university on its path to climate
neutrality
11-04-2021

Specialist Service Climate Protection

- in office for climate protection and mobility
- since May 2021
- 14 employees



However, I am totally impressed! Such a cargo bike rides like a car!



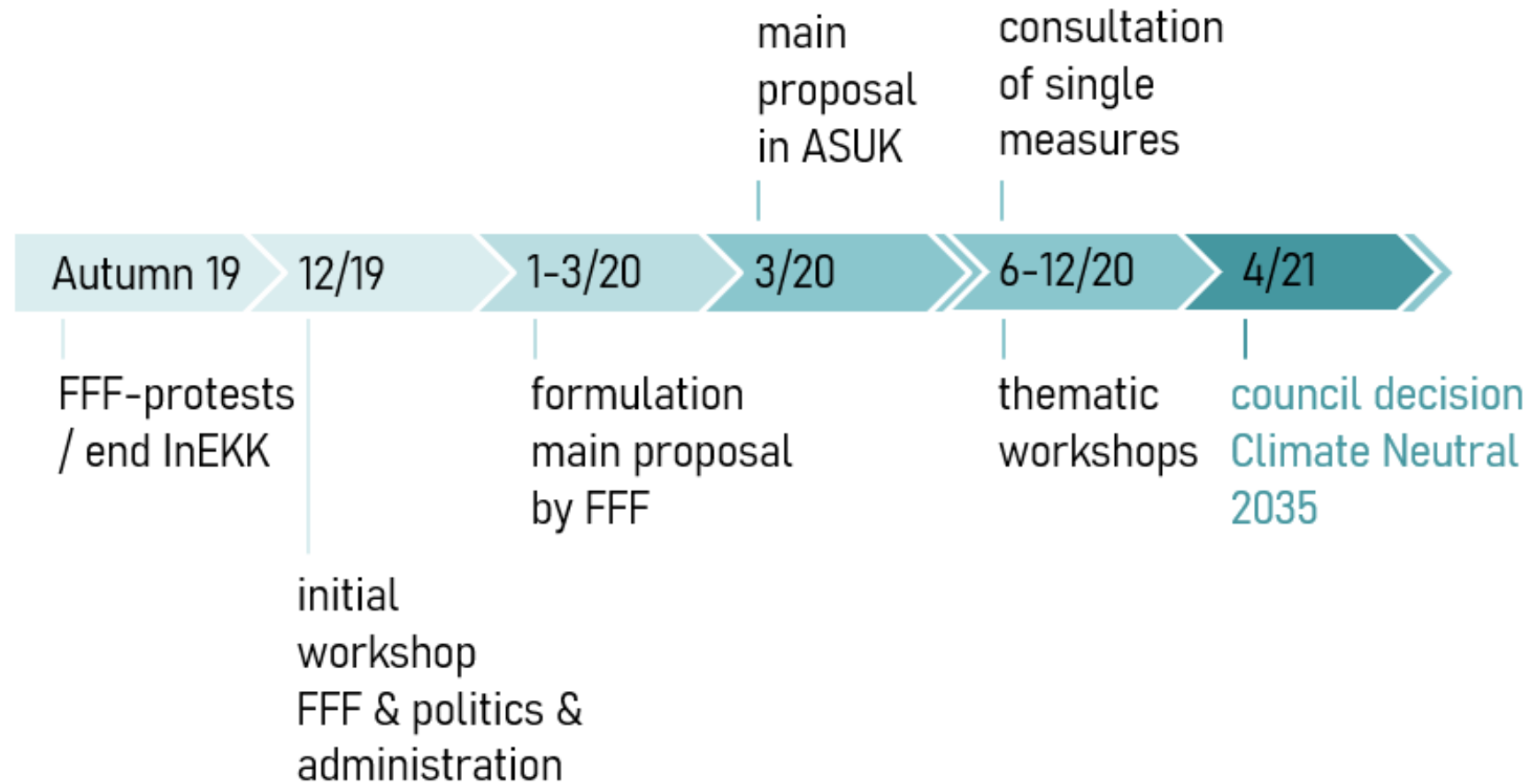
Climate Protection since 2012



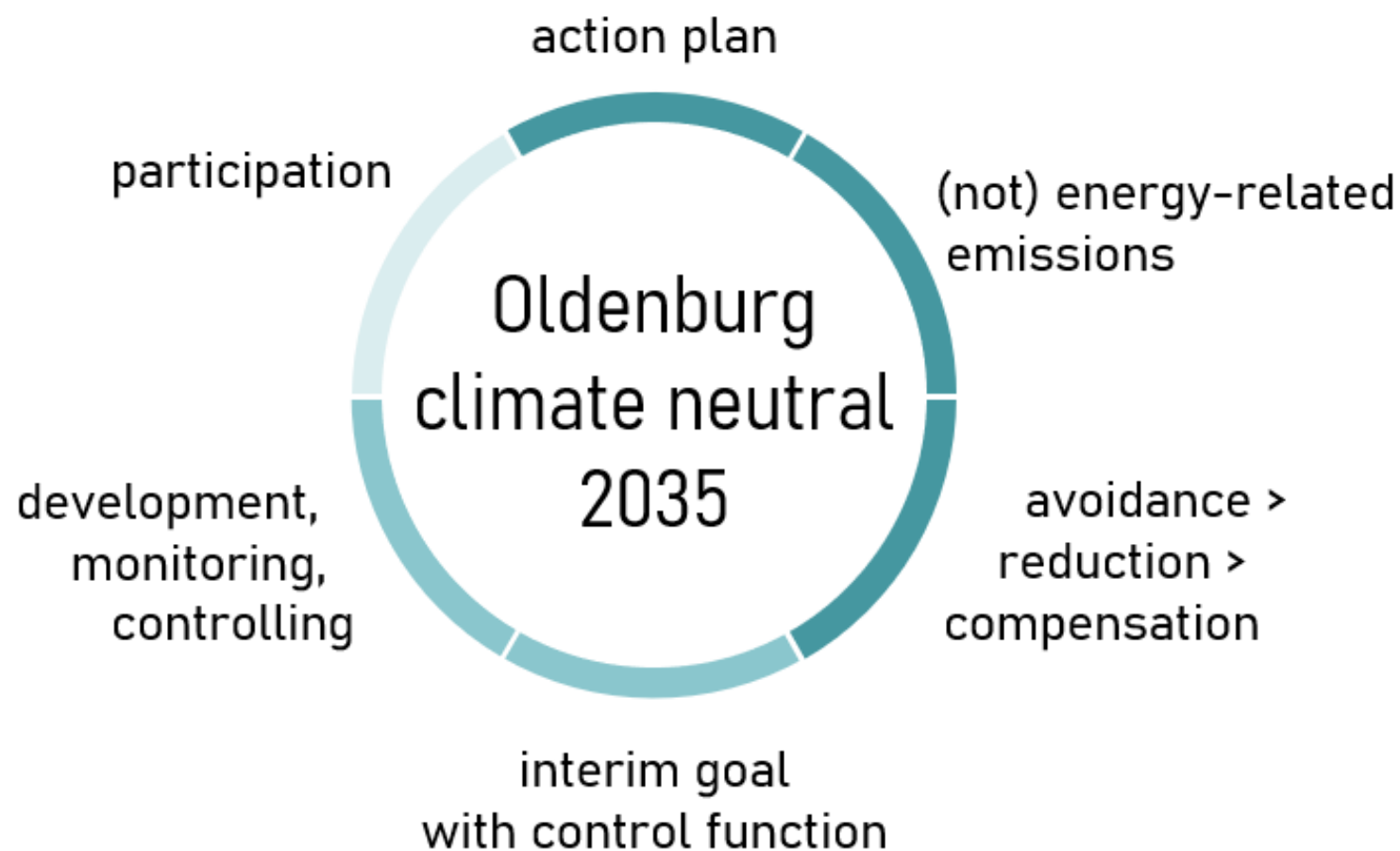
- compiled 2012, aligned until 2020
- 120 measures in energy and transport
- CO₂-reduction in coal:
1990-2020: 320.000 t
- development CO₂- emissions:
1990-2018: -12%
- >> InEKK-goal reached/missed by 50%



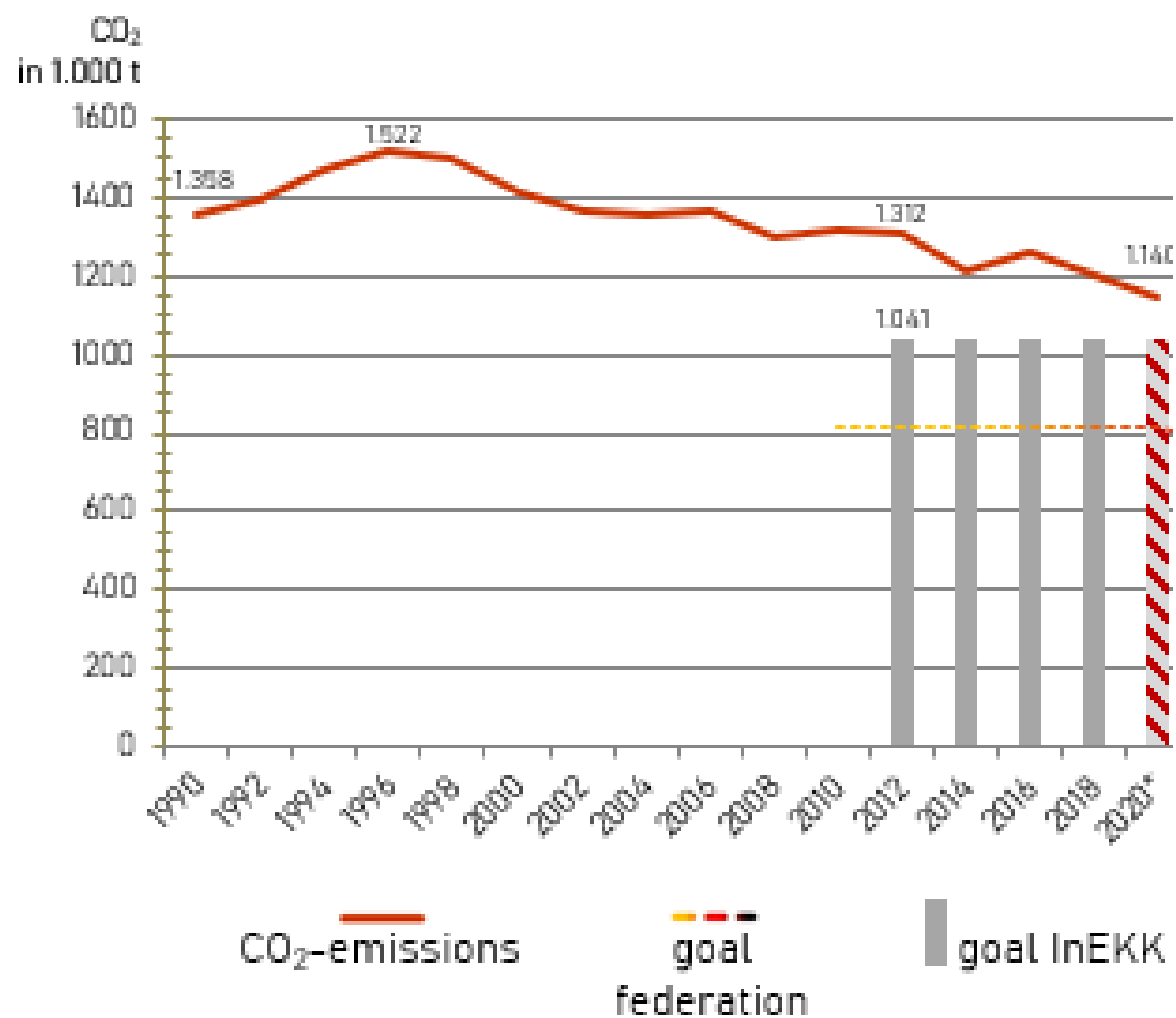
Participatively to Climate Goal



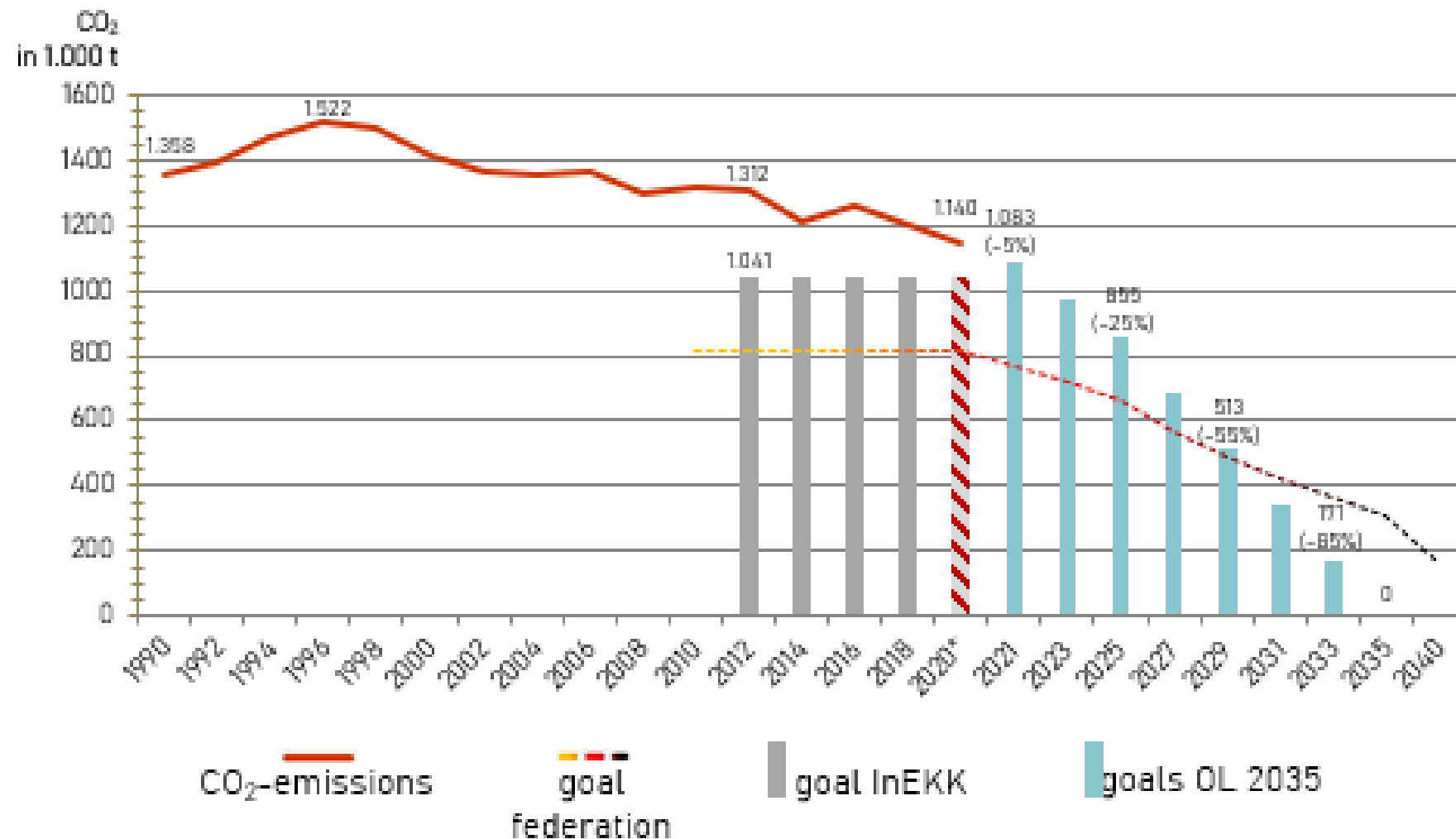
Goal & Components



Energy-Related CO₂-Emissions in OL Development until 2020 und target value 2035



Energy-Related CO₂-Emissions in OL Development until 2020 und target value 2035

* CO₂-values for 2019 & 2020 provisional (CO₂-Bericht 2020)

Potentials in OL:

- old buildings (esp. rehabilitation, warmth)
 - expansion photovoltaics
 - mobility revolution (esp. car/capita, interrelations)
- >> we do not have single amendments
(no central emitter)

The mire and peat areas around Oldenburg should be absolutely sustained: They absorb CO₂!

I seem to contain lots of CO₂.





Thank you!

Climate-Kickstarter – The university on its path to climate
neutrality

11-04-2021

University of Oldenburg - Climate Neutral 20xx?



Anna Krämer

*Climate Protection
Manager*

University of Oldenburg

The Working Group *Climate Neutral University* introduces themselves



Jörg Stahlmann
VP Finance & Administration



Prof. Dr. Esther Ruigendijk
Institute of Dutch Studies



Prof. Dr. Bernd Siebenhüner
Ecological Economy WG



Anna Krämer
Climate protection manager



Meik Möllers
Head of Department Dec. 4



Dr. Herena Torio
PPRE



Sabine Düser
Dez. 4



Eva Dröge
Dez. 4



Helena Post
AStA



Jonas Maenicke
AStA



Sinja Michel
AStA



StudentsforFuture
Oldenburg

Fields of action

Quantitative



Energy & Construction



Mobility



Resources



University catering

Qualitative



Research



Education

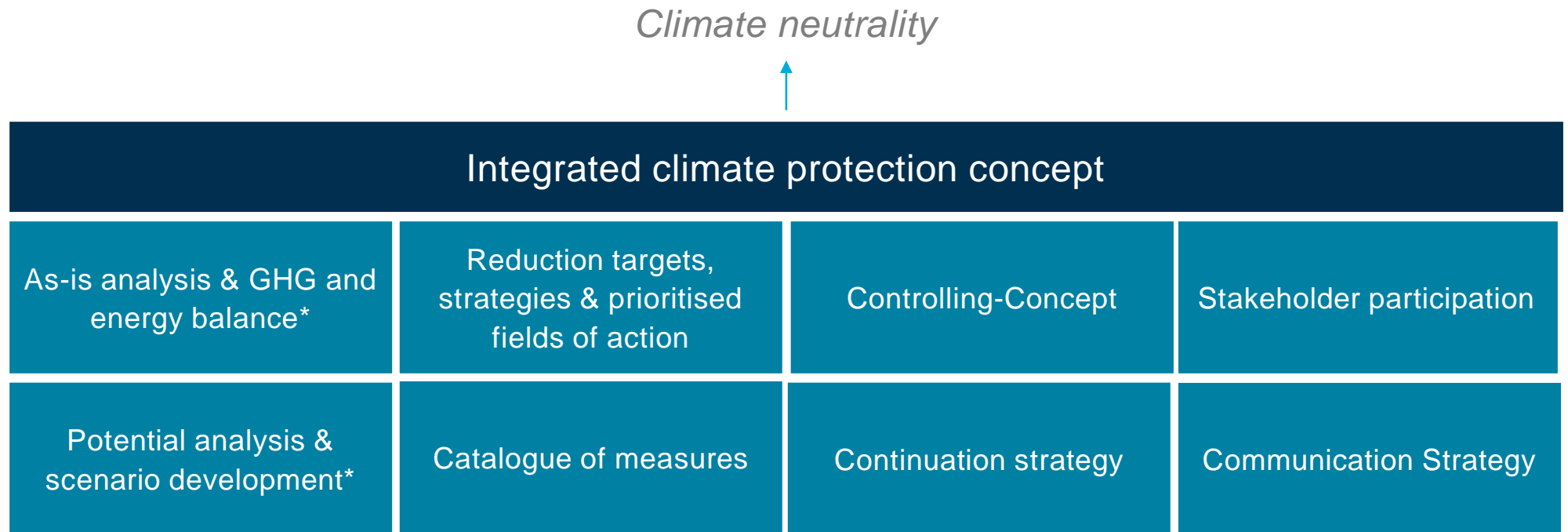


Campus ecology



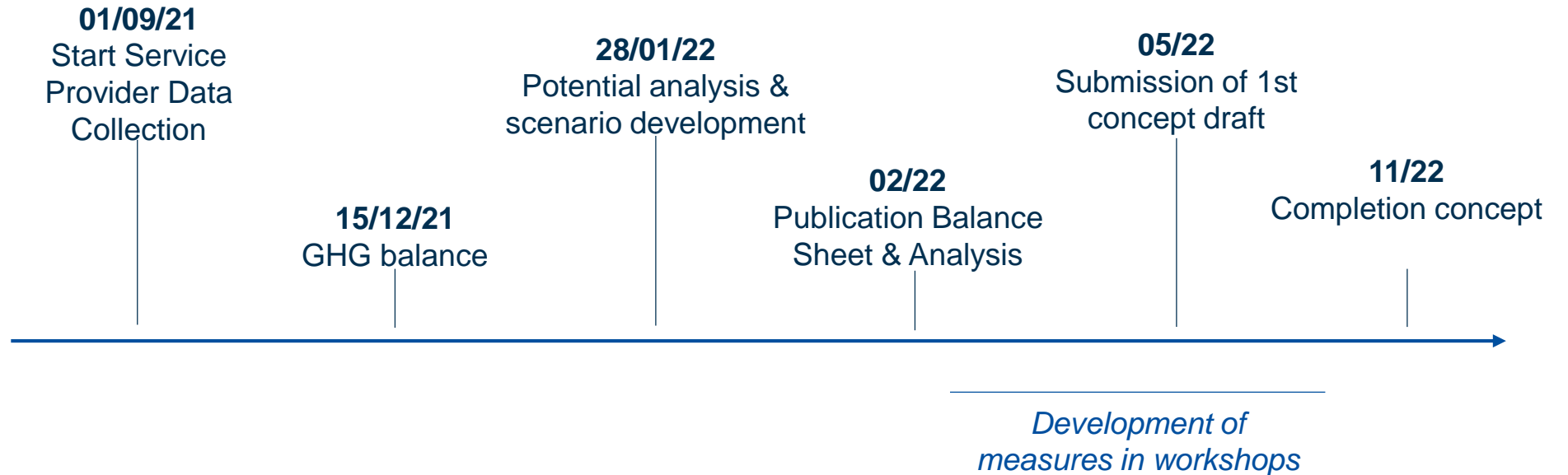
Stud. Initiatives

Elements of the concept



**support by the extern service provide tara Ingenieursbürop*

Schedule & Milestones



Participation opportunities

Publication of GHG balance
Workshops on the fields of
action

Virtual + analogue idea box
(conversation format)

Website
Newsletter
Green board



Students' perspective



Jonas Maenicke

Helena Post

Sinja Michel

General Student Committee

University of Oldenburg



AStA der *Carl v. Ossietzky* Universität Oldenburg

ON ITS PATH TO A CLIMATE-NEUTRAL UNIVERSITY



Other things we do (excerpt)

- Environmental education:
 - Sustainability Weeks of the North
 - Climate Crisis & Social Criticism Conference (in planning)
 - Ecological Campus
 - Fair share for rescued food
 - Campus garden: Crop garden for students
 - Further services
 - Bicycle self-help workshop
 - Computer workshop
 - Vegetable bag
 - AstA Land
- <https://asta-oldenburg.de/>
 - Instagram: asta_uol
 - nachhaltigkeit@asta-oldenburg.de
 - www.nachhaltigkeitswochen-norden.de/



Q&A

Contact

Anna Krämer

anna.sarah.kraemer@uol.de

<https://uol.de/en/climateprotection-and-sustainability>



Q&A Summary

The content-related suggestions for measures and sub-areas to be considered in the concept are collected and passed on to the workshops. These suggestions are marked with an * in this protocol.

Q1: Is there a link to the AStA's computer workshop? Is there enough equipment available to borrow?

A: There are a certain number of rental units, but they are all taken at the moment. More equipment is currently being acquired.

The link to the computer workshop is: <https://asta-oldenburg.de/computerwerkstatt/>

Q2: To what extent is the university location Wilhelmshaven considered in the concepts being developed in the project?

A: The Wilhelmshaven site is considered in the greenhouse gas emissions balance, as well as in the development of appropriate measures.

Q3: Why does the UOL not provide any facilities for charging e-cars and e-bikes?

A: Charging stations for e-bikes are available at the covered bicycle racks at A06 and in Wechloy. The provision of charging points for e-cars is currently still subject to tax issues [as is the offer of a bike leasing service for university employees]. These options will nevertheless be included in the catalogue of measures, as the legal framework conditions may change. In addition, the city of Oldenburg is developing a mobility concept, including the planning of charging stations, with the active involvement of the major employers (i.e. also the university).

*The parking areas could also be covered with solar panels, as large areas are available there.

Q4: Doesn't a climate protection concept also include dealing with the consequences of global warming? The manhole covers have already been floated up at the corner of Uhlhornsweg and Ammerländer Heerstraße. Shouldn't we take up the sponge city concept and create a lot of greenery?

A: The topic of climate adaptation has, of course, been a current and important topic at least ever since the severe weather catastrophe in July. Due to the lack of capacity, however, it cannot be fully addressed in the climate protection concept. However, many measures act both as emission reduction and as an instrument of climate adaptation, e.g. greening of buildings, and are integrated into the concept accordingly. Urgent adaptations should be carried out by the university and the city separately from the process of preparing the climate protection concept.

Supplemented by Mr. Zenner: His department mainly deals with climate protection, whilst the environmental department. deals with the topic of climate adaptation.

Q5: There is a lot of single-use plastic waste in laboratories - are there plans to do something about this issue as well?

A: *The topic is gladly included as a reference in order to develop measures for it later in the "Resources" unit.

Q6: What are the first steps towards setting up the participation formats?

A: The first step was this info event to draw attention to the project and to provide all university members with the opportunity to be informed about the project. Otherwise, the newsletter will provide regular insights into the progress of the project.

For the publication of the greenhouse gas balance, there will be another comprehensive event, where possible measures will be collected in an initial brainstorming session. Information on the workshop formats and dates will be provided well in advance. In addition, introductions to the content or small tutorials will be offered in advance so that all participants can participate constructively in the discussions at the workshops.

In addition, information is available to everyone via the channels presented, such as the info board in the cafeteria foyer and on the website.

Otherwise, please feel free to contact us at any time with any suggestions, ideas, questions or impulses regarding the project.

Q7: One question for Mr. Zenner: The keyword is the renovation of old buildings in the city to save energy. Is the measure "financed" by rent increases afterwards or are there also social components here, keyword "social housing construction"?

A: There are no concrete measures from the climate protection motivation, but the topic is considered. The topic is too complex, so that it would be difficult to implement. The issue here is rather how to renovate old buildings in the first place.

But there are public support programmes for housing, however, these are not linked to climate protection.

Q8: One of the greatest potentials is certainly the heat supply of the buildings - but an energetic renovation and conversion of the heating systems will be very expensive. Where can the necessary money come from? Are there any predictable subsidy programmes from the state/federal government?

A: There are only a handful of funding programmes, but the university's goal is to keep and renovate the old buildings. With the photovoltaic systems, the university managed to operate on its own initiative. Financial support for this project was only available through funding programmes after the project had been completed. The university is currently negotiating with the ministries and other funding agencies, but so far there are no suitable funding programmes.

One possibility, however, is intructing, through which the university can provide itself with a loan from its reserves, which is then refinanced through the energy costs saved.

Q9: Why does the UOL not offer e-bike leasing for employees, as it is often possible e.g. with municipalities and companies from the private sector?

A: This is currently not provided by the state of Lower Saxony. But in networking with other universities, this is often discussed and many would like to offer such programmes.

Q10: Even if concrete ideas should rather wait, I would like to ask whether the train station Wechloy is already part of the considerations... The problem here is that it is only served by the Nord-Westbahn, which means that the university can be reached directly by train from the direction of Bremen only, but not from the direction of

A: Mr Zenner cannot provide an answer to this and refers to the city's transport department.

In principle, the development process of measures in the field of mobility should also be conducted in dialogue with the city and the relevant companies.

Q11: Referring to the building question: renovation is better than new construction from an ecological point of view - will the University of Oldenburg commit to this principle and preserve old buildings?

A: see Q8.

Q12: Can home office work be maintained after Corona, e.g. 2 days present, 3 days home office? Every kilometre saved benefits the climate.

A: So far, the home office option is still available. The topic is currently being discussed in the Executive Board to determine possible measures in this regard to be taken in the future. The year 2019 and 2020 will be included in the balance sheet in order to show the effects of home office and online teaching on emissions.

Efforts are being made to further enable flexible working hours, provided that the respective area of work permits this.

Discussions are currently underway with the staff council to draft a service agreement that will make mobile working possible on a low-threshold basis. Here, not only the benefits of every kilometre not driven are seen, but also the (office) space not needed. In this context, new space models could be implemented.

Q13: Is it possible to purchase laboratory supplies such as enzymes or media, etc. centrally, so that each working group does not have to purchase individually and thus receive individual packages wrapped in Styrofoam and dry ice?

A: * Will be taken as a measure.

As there seems to be a lot of demand in the area, 'Sustainable Laboratory Management' is included as a sub-topic for the workshop phase.

Q:14 Speaking of bicycles in the city: Who actually takes care of an improved bicycle infrastructure? Especially better asphalted cycle paths and the promotion of proper bicycle racks.

A: Answer from Mr Zenner: The topic of transport is always considered holistically - the whole city as an urban space. As a university, the location has an important role. The city has been active for years in promoting the bicycle structure.

A 'Mobility and Transport Framework Plan' is currently being developed: a comprehensive concept consisting of 12 parts, which addresses, among other things, cycling with various sub-concepts (in the sense of space availability, quality, cycle routes, parking facilities, ...). Various concepts are currently being developed to improve parking spaces and routes (e.g. at the Pferdemarkt).

Q15: Can university purchases via EDE also be considered, e.g. with sustainable ecological articles?

A: This will be discussed accordingly in the workshop on 'Resources'. A guideline for sustainable purchasing/procurement has currently been adopted for the federal administration, in which procurement is linked to the current CO2 price. This is a strategic instrument that can be used to achieve a lot efficiently.

For the university, the idea here is to impose a CO2 price internally and measure everything thereafter. Otherwise, it remains to be seen whether and what will happen in this area at the state level.

Q16: Who can be contacted if one has specific questions, e.g. where one's "own" building offers savings measures that can be implemented as an individual (e.g. with regard to heating, lighting, water). I am also interested in how existing knowledge can be transferred, e.g. to new employees like me.

A: The service provider will make some suggestions as to which measures can be effective in which building. A concrete advisory service is not possible by the capacities so far, but we gladly take up the suggestion to develop these "local" information services.

For example, it could be a possibility to integrate sustainability and climate protection directly into the the onboarding process of new employees. The main goal is to improve communication and participation regarding this topic.

A 'green board' can be set up in each building so that information on sustainability and climate protection topics is displayed in each building.

Further suggestions from the chat

- *Make existing areas more ecological (key words: biodiversity, insect meadows, preserving soils) also has a positive effect on climate adaptation.
- *no more use of leaf blowers, reduce lawn mowing
- *Greening of photovoltaic facilities
- * Possibly cooperate with Olegeno
- *Introduce a staff unit for sustainability
- *A digital pin board for climate protection, similar to the paper roll for feedback from the canteen
- *Medical, reusable fabric masks instead of disposable masks?
- *Push digitalisation of processes further to enable or improve home office.
- *Not only e-bike leasing, but also rental of "normal" bicycles
- *Measures to raise awareness with regard to the consumption of electronic devices.