



Sustainability at the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics of Complex Technical Systems

Sophia Pistorius¹, Emilia Kohls¹, Sara Grundel¹, Axel von Kamp¹, Hannes Buchholz¹, Peter Schulze¹, Jakob Schweizer¹, Stefanie Markstein², Andreas Voigt²

¹ Max Planck Institute for Dynamics of Complex Technical Systems
² Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg

WHY A SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE AT THE MPI-DCTS?

Climate change, shortage of energy and other resources, air and water pollution as well as the decline of ecosystems and biodiversity are major challenges of our time [1]. Through our research work at the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics of Complex Technical Systems we try our best to contribute to new solutions in order to meet these challenges. We investigate new ways to store and distribute energy from renewable sources, we develop industrial processes to make them more efficient and less demanding on limited resources, and we find new methods to produce important medication for developing countries [2]. However, at the MPI in Magdeburg we don't want to limit our contribution to a more sustainable world to our scientific achievements but also by the way how we do research [3].



THE SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

Since Summer 2015 a group from the scientific staff, lab assistants and administration try to develop strategies to make our work at the MPI-DCTS more sustainable. We meet weekly on Wednesday at lunch for a short discussion and once a month we invite all colleagues to coffee and cake at the Sustainability Café. At these occasions we try to develop and discuss strategies and measures to make our institute and our work more eco-friendly.



In doing so, we try to integrate all different groups and interests and it is our wish to cooperate with our colleagues in all aspects. High-quality science and successful research is of course the main goal of our work at the MPI-DCTS.

It is therefore our ambition to find solutions and measures to increase the sustainability of our institute without affecting the quality of our scientific work.



REFERENCES

- [1] The limits to Growth. 1972, Club of Rome
- [2] Status Report 2012 – 2015. Max Planck Institute for Dynamics of Complex Technical Systems, Magdeburg
- [3] Nachhaltigkeitsmanagement in außeruniversitären Forschungsorganisationen, 2016, Fraunhofer Gesellschaft, Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft, Leibniz-Gemeinschaft

ONGOING PROJECTS

Waste separation

Normal waste paper:

- Collection of paper waste in the individual offices by employees
- Central collection of paper waste in central printer rooms
- Disposal by facility manager
- Offering waste bins for offices by the sustainability group

Poster waste paper:

- Separate collection of old scientific posters in central printer rooms
- Posters will be supplied to local kindergartens so that children can paint on them

Waste glass:

- Collection of waste glass in the tea kitchens,
- Disposal by facility manager („Hausdame“)

Yellow Bin/Bag („Grüner Punkt/Gelber Sack“):

- One bin available in the tea kitchen 2nd floor, south wing

Recycling paper

- Since summer 2016 test phase for recycling paper for central printers in the south wing and in selected secretary office
- 100% recycling paper, „high white“ quality
- Recycling paper 5% more expensive than non-recycling paper

Bike sharing

- 2 sharing bikes available at the bike shed in the south wing
- Free to use for short trips to the university or city
- Upon request also available for longer term, e.g. for new colleagues or if the own bike has been stolen
- Security codes available at the reception

Fruit harvest and apple juice production

- Collection of fruits of our institute orchard in autumn
- Production of apple juice with a juice squeezer during the institute health day
- Planting of additional trees (pear and walnut)

Bee hives and honey

- Since August 2016 beehive with one 1 bee colony (~ 50.000 bees) in the institute orchard
- Care-taking by an experienced beekeeper
- Harvesting of 15kg honey in September 2016
- Sale of honey to colleagues
- HOeny jars as gifts for guest scientists and guest speakers

Fair trade lab coats

- Research and information on workwear from fair trade sources
- Some labs use already lab coats from fair trade sources, e.g. by BP (Bierbaum Proenen GmbH)

