

Spring Campus Conference

Workshop: “Universities on the Way to Climate Neutrality”, March 31 – April 1, 2020

Organized by Andreas Wanke and Katrin Schweigel (Freie Universität Berlin)

More and more universities commit themselves to act on climate change. Cities and universities around the world have started to declare a state of climate emergency, making climate protection a priority in their own institutions. This development has triggered strong sustainability commitments and new activities on campus, based on a new understanding of the urgency of the climate crisis. Freie Universität Berlin was the first university in Germany to declare a state of climate emergency in December 2019 – pledging to become CO₂ neutral by 2025. This decision highlights the universities’ commitment to systematically embedding sustainability and climate protection in their institutions and international networks.

In our workshop, universities that have declared an emergency, such as Freie Universität Berlin and the University of British Columbia, will introduce their strategic plans for the climate emergency. We invite proposals for oral and poster presentations, addressing one or more of the following questions:

- What factors or developments led to the decision to declare a climate emergency or issue a strong sustainability commitment?
- What does the commitment entail? Which areas are prioritized? What governance changes and measures are considered?
- What additional activities have been added following the publication of a climate emergency declaration or sustainability strategy?
- What does a climate-neutral strategy at universities look like? What are the major milestones in achieving climate neutrality?
- Which system boundaries (scopes 1-3) are taken into account?
- Beyond reducing CO₂ and greenhouse gas emissions, how can climate protection and sustainability be implemented in the whole institution?

Call for Contributions

The Management Workshop is meant to serve as a platform for sharing experiences on the implementation of strong sustainability commitments (e.g. in the framework of a sustainability strategy or climate emergency) in the university context. The workshop invites contributions (talks and posters) for a stock-taking exercise across the range of those topical issues. Please send your abstracts (of 500 words) to katrin.schweigel@fu-berlin.de by **February 10, 2020**. The confirmations for the workshop will be sent out on February 15, 2020.

During the workshop, projects can either be presented in a short presentation (15 minutes with 10 minutes discussion afterwards) or during a poster presentation session.

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The workshop will take place at the annual Spring Campus Conference of the University Alliance for Sustainability. For further information on the conference please see: https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/spring-campus/03_Program/index.html

Important note: Given the current interest in the topic, we have decided to offer a workshop on the subject of climate emergency and climate neutrality. The workshop "***Digitalization: Opportunities, Challenges and Impacts on Sustainability Management in Higher Education***" therefore had to be canceled. However, aspects of digitalization and sustainability will also be considered in the new workshop format. Contributions addressing this topic can still be submitted and will be considered in the selection process.