

UfU-Summer schools within the project Social Ecological Research

„Soft Factors for Successful Climate Protection“

Background:

Climate protection can not be successful without the so-called „soft factors“ like education and public participation. Success in climate protection depends on behaviour patterns, attitudes, emotional and socio-cultural dispositions both of individuals and society as a whole. These factors ultimately determine public debate, communication and the extent of the readiness for changes to further climate protection. After a period of broad understanding and a public agreement and consensus as far as climate protection measures were concerned, there is currently a growing attitude to see climate protection as imposition. That is why it is vital to keep the understanding of climate protection as an urgent matter alive in society. This is of special importance even though and because government and other officials never stop talking about climate protection, but mostly produce just announcements without consequences.

In the three summer schools within our project, UfU in cooperation with national and international partners as well as known experts aims at investigating the soft factors education and public participation and the emotional dispositions and patterns they are based on from different angles regarding their influence on the success of climate protection measures.

Experts give an introduction into the respective topics which will be discussed in an active, practice-oriented way using different methods of chairing and moderating discussions as well as facilitating group interaction.

The schools are aiming at:

- Deepening international exchange of experience in the fields of environment education and climate or public participation and climate protection resp. and the motivation, behaviour pattern and attitudes they are based on
- Strengthening of the social ecological research at UfU
- International networking and cooperation
- Helping participants to acquire knowledge and skills in using different methods of chairing and moderating discussions as well as facilitating group interaction
- Combining subject-oriented discussion with methodological and practical work

Target group:

About 30 participants, including employees and free-lancers of UfU, 8-10 employees or members of partner organisations and 8-10 interested and interesting members of the public as

- scientists
- environmentalists
- communicators
- employees of UfU and partner organisations

Dates:

6.-8. October 2009 at Erkner near Berlin

March 2010 in Prague

September 2010 at Erkner near Berlin

Thematic Outline:

Summer School 1: „Basic Conditions of Soft Factors in Climate Protection“

Summer School 2: „Public Participation and Climate Protection“

Summer School 3: „Education and Climate Protection“

Summer School 1: „The Cultural Basis of our Climate Protection Measures”

The first summer school shall give insights into deep rooted cultural patterns and motivations thus highlighting levels of cognition that are relevant for fundamental behaviour disposition in the context of climate protection. It will include results from different scientific disciplines as well as findings of motivational *and happiness* research and recent knowledge about the formation and change of values in society.

Content

Part I: Introductory Lectures

I. Lifestyle – Analysis concerning Climate matters, Dr. Gerd Scholl, Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW) Berlin

II. New results on how learning and cognition processes influence feeling, motivation and activity orientation of youth people, Dr. Maik Hosang, Institute for Integrated Social Ecology, Pommritz

III. Ecological Psychology and und Environmental Perception – How to bridge the rift between knowledge and action in climate protection measures? Which conditions are essential for behaviour innovation in the field of climate protection?, Prof. Dr. Schweizer-Ries, Uni Magdeburg

IV. Everyday Perception of Climate Change – About Climate Awareness in Germany. Opportunities for consumers, Dr. Melanie Weber , Head of Environment Protection Department, Federal Consumer Initiative

Part II: Future Workshop: „Preconditions for Behaviour Innovation in Relation to Climate Change“

During this one-day exercise, the participants, who are all working in climate protection, are asked to reflect on themselves and their personal experiences and activities as well as develop new ideas..

Part III: Practical Experience and Implementation of the results of the future workshop Three Best-Practise Examples each from the field of education and public participation

Education:

- Long time project „Fifty-Fifty“: Educational programme on Energy saving at schools, UfU Berlin
- Project “Climate Caravan” in Denmark
- Project „Zero Carbon Britain “ , GB

Public Participation:

- Public Participation in Climate protection in Oregon, US
- Climate Protection and Public Participation in the Czech Republic
- Citizens’ Solar Plants as new way of public participation (Germany)

Reflection and Evaluation

- What were the success factors of the best Practise examples?
- How to the results of the future workshop compare with the analysis of the success factors of the best practise examples?

Summer School 2: „Public Participation and Climate Protection“

Climate Protection can not be implemented successfully without active participation of the citizens. Therefore, it is important, that climate protection action groups can have a say and participate to speed up the hesitant political protagonists and bring about change. This way, it is possible to establish climate protection as a key issue in society thus generating more ideas and initiatives for climate protection.

On the other hand, citizens can become climate protectors themselves by implementing climate protection measures at home and in their local area and this way improving their personal climate balance or the climate balance of society as a whole.

Content

World Café

Public Participation und Climate Protection

Part I

Examples

Climate Protection through formalised procedures of public participation and law suits

Part II

Examples

Public Participation on the local level for active climate protection

Part III

Success factors for public participation in climate protection

Planning game

Action and project ideas for public participation in climate protection

Summer School 3: „Education and Climate Protection“

Content

How to measure success in climate protection

Which media work effectively to implement behaviour change?

How effective are electronic media in doing so? (Computer games=breakthrough in environment education?)

The relation between environment awareness and climate education

Is School effective in environment education? – How can environment education be effective?

Part I

Different approaches to climate Protection projects

Analysis of 4-5 examples

Part II

Identification of success factors of the respective projects

Identification of criteria for successful climate protection education

Part III

Development of model projects using the work results of the previous days