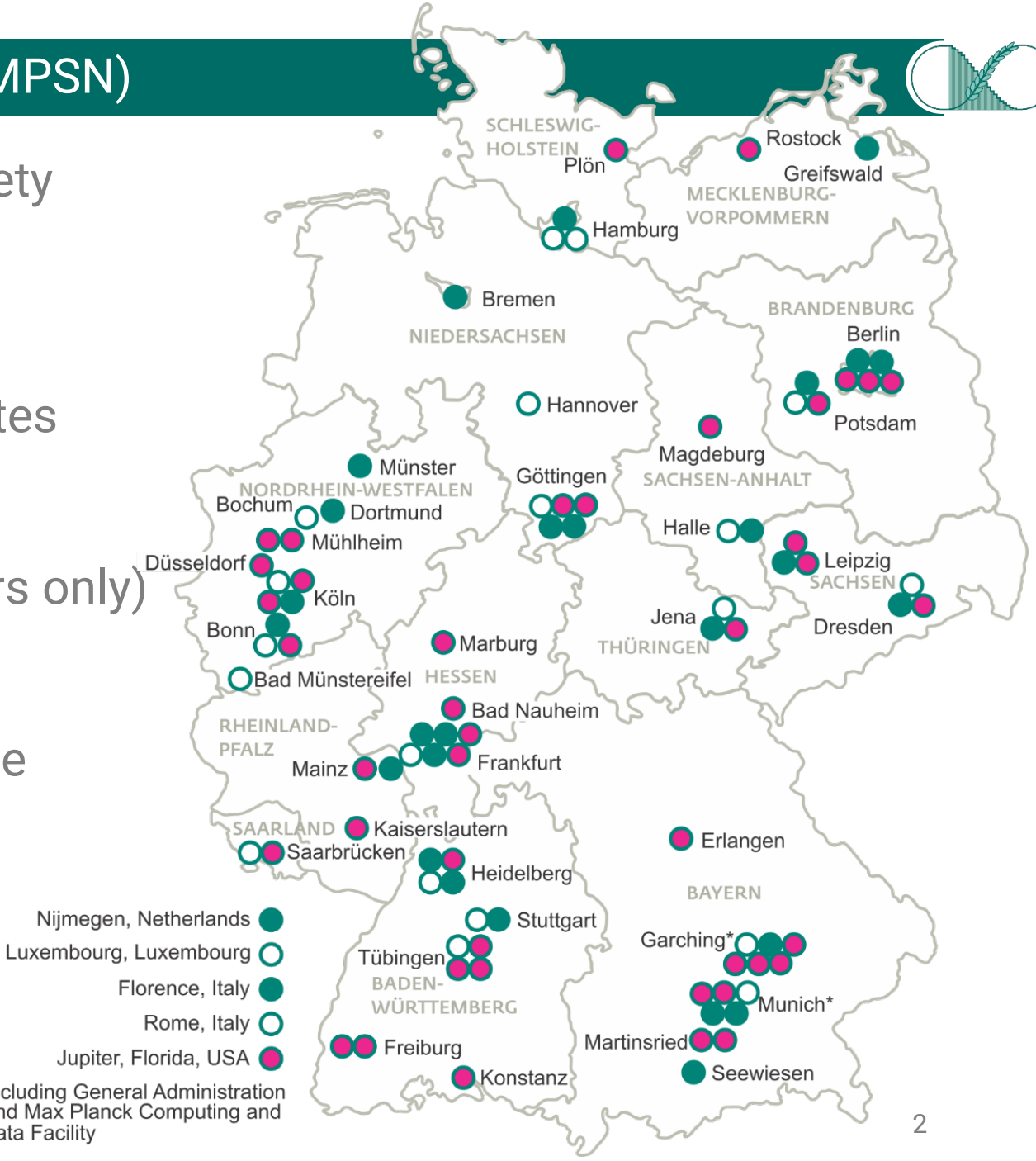
Max Planck Sustainability Network

Introduction by the Steering Committee

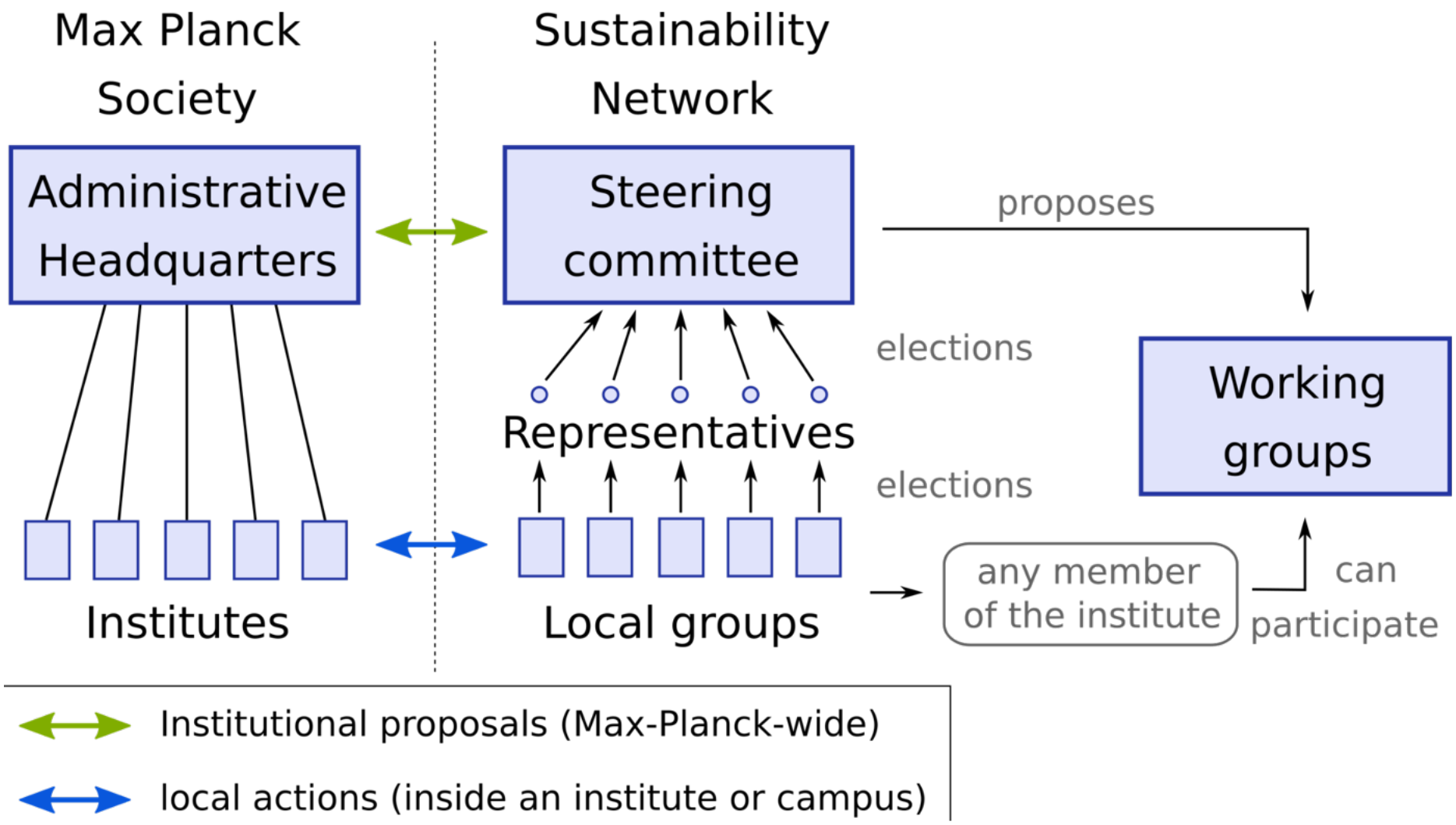
27/05/2021

The Max Planck Sustainability Network (MPSN)

- Founded in May 2019 by Max Planck Society (MPG) employees
- Grassroots network
- 170 registered members in over 55 institutes
- Local sustainability groups in 43 institutes
- 474 newsletter subscribers (MPG members only)
- Both academic and non-academic staff
- Democratically elected Steering Committee
- Mission: Making research in the MPG (& in science) more ecologically sustainable



Organigramme



Steering Committee 2020/21

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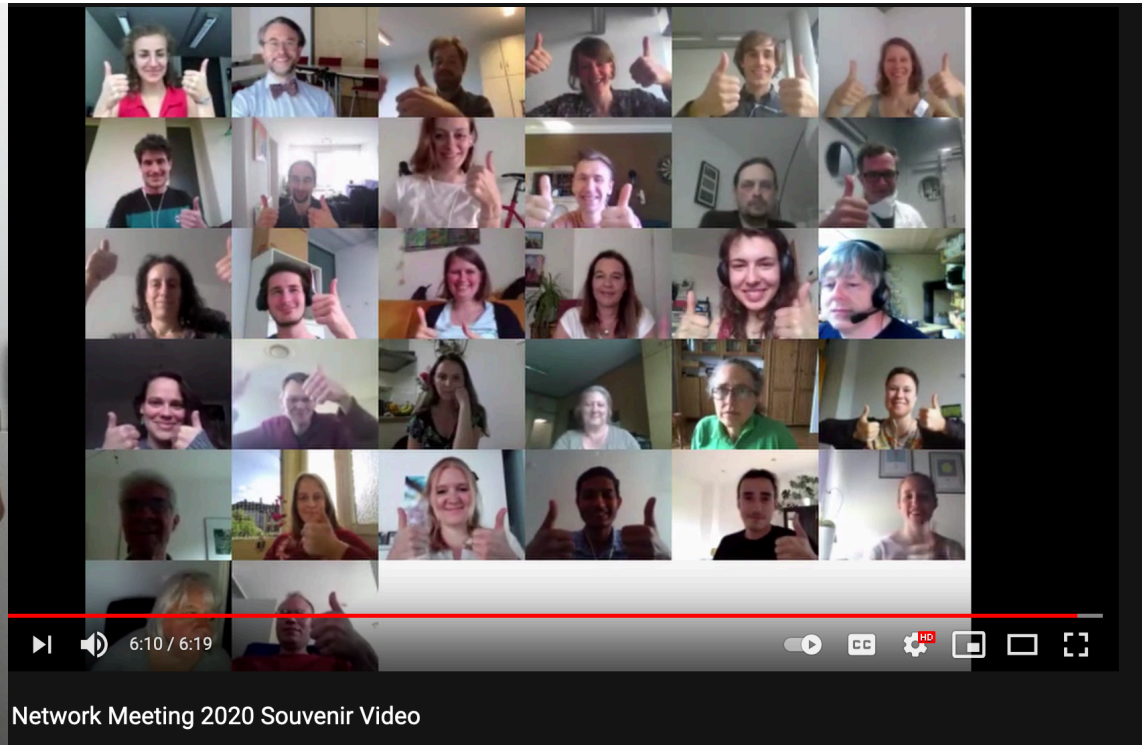
Sustainability Groups

- Local groups with volunteers from all roles
- Community support
- Local projects, e.g.
  - Biodiversity measures
  - Recycling paper
  - Waste management
  - Bee hives
  - ...

Network Meetings

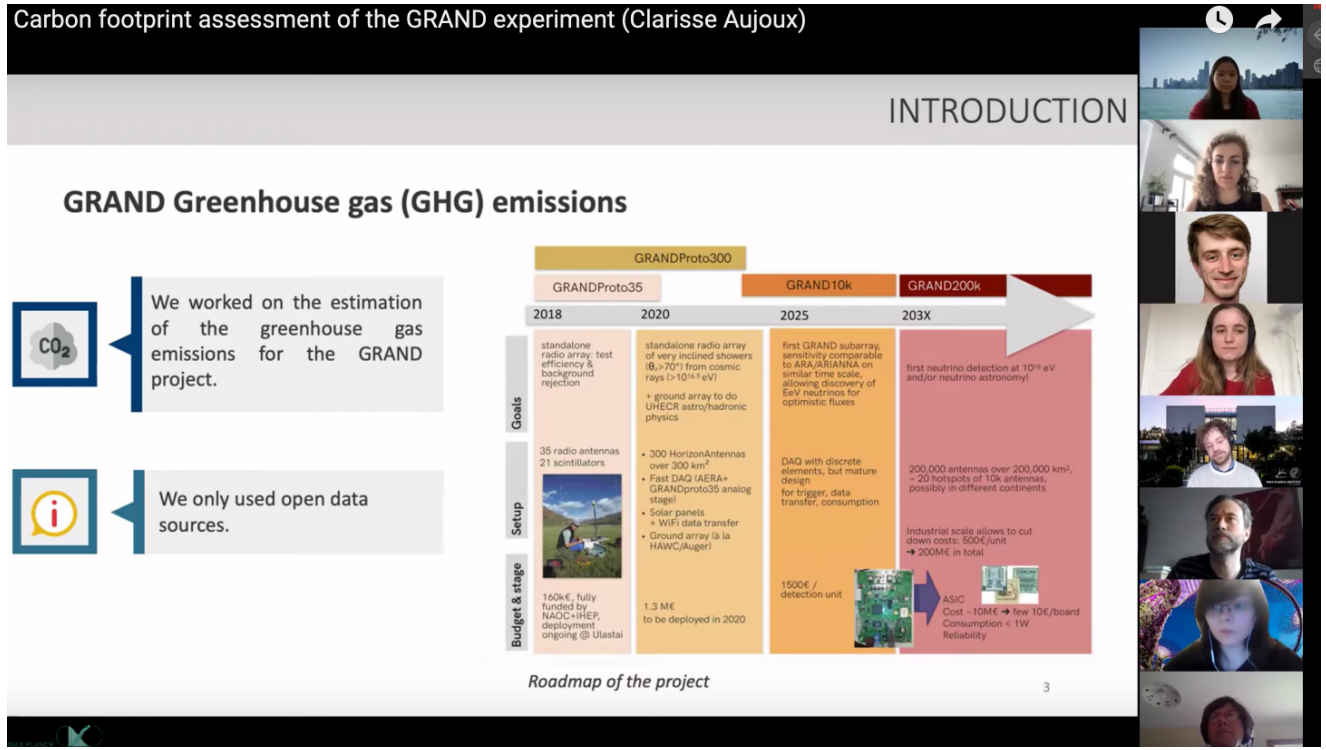
2019: Foundation of the MPSN (MPI DCTS)
2020: Climate Change of Mind (MPI CBS)
2021: Building a Sustainable Future with Science (MPI Orn, MPIN, MPIB)



Web Seminars and Lecture Series

MPG directors talk about:

- Sustainability and the Oceans
- Sustainable Metals
- The Social Dilemma of Climate Change

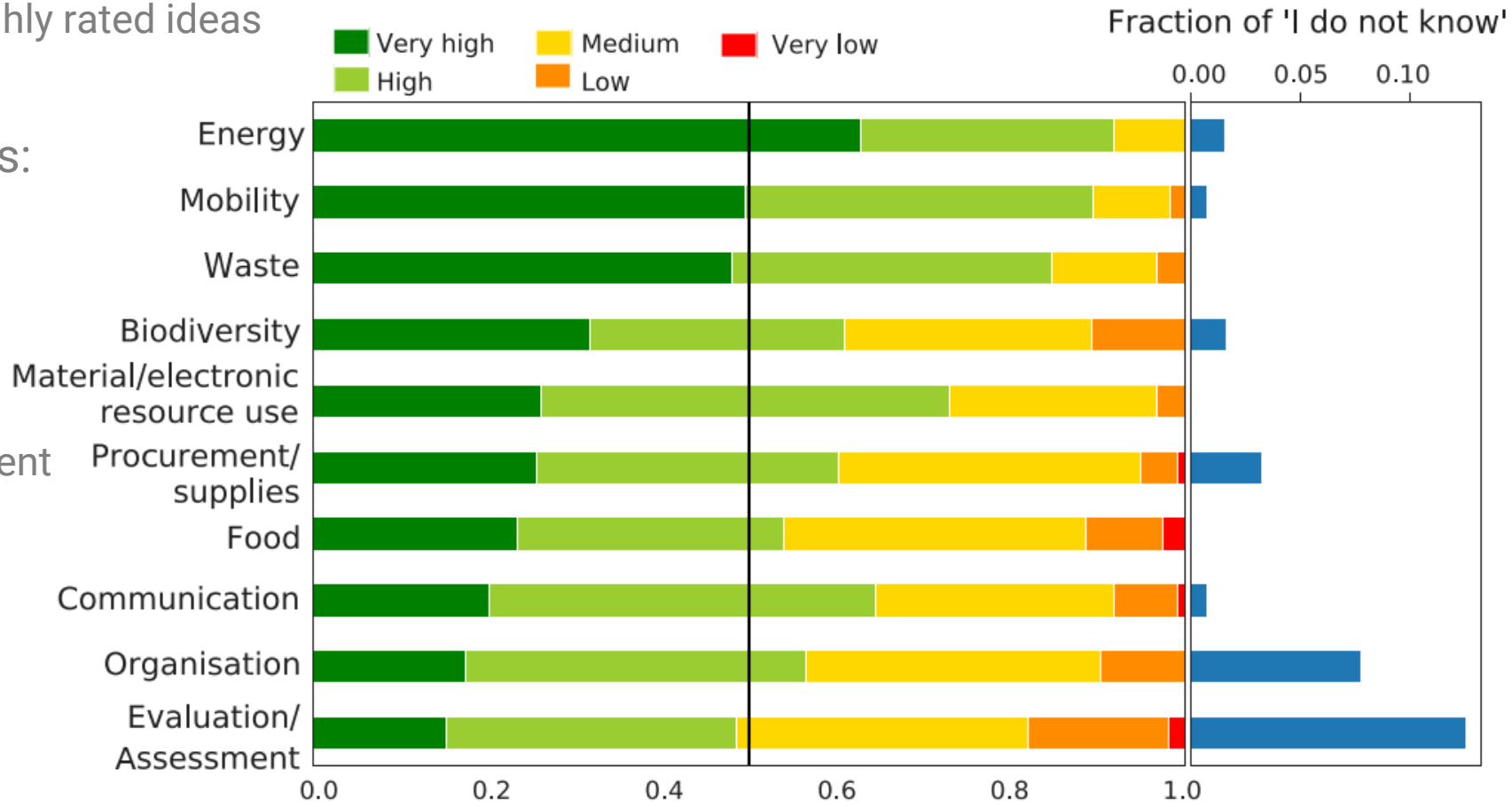


MPSN members or guests talk about:

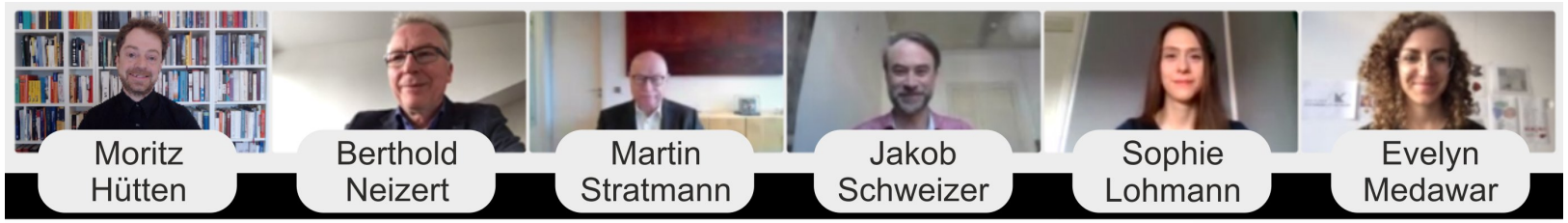
- CO_2 Assessment
- Tap water
- Technical tools

CaRe: Brainstorming & Priorisation Aug 2019 – Jan 2021

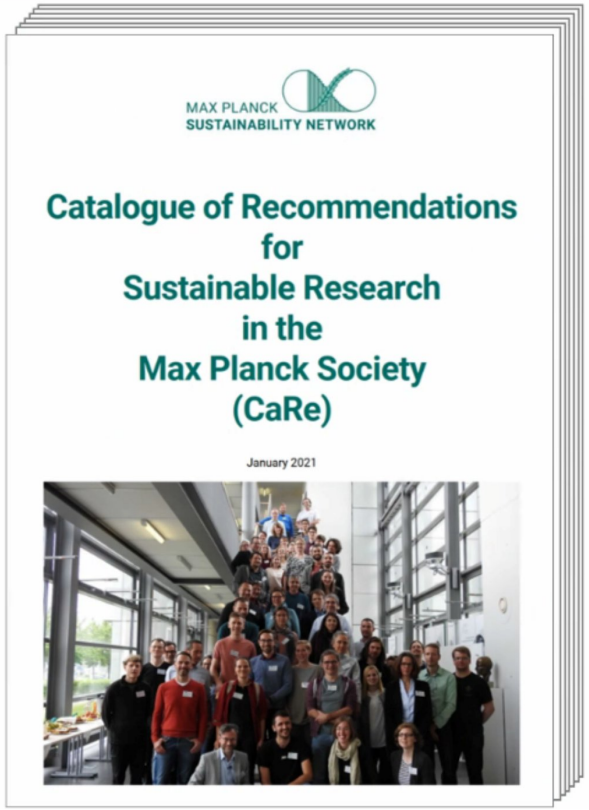
- Summer 2019: Collaborative brainstorming with all network members, in total 116 ideas
- Autumn 2019: Formal online survey on all ideas, responses from 134 network members
- Discussion by Steering Committee
  - Identification of most highly rated ideas
  - Choice of final topics
- Grouping into five clusters:
  - Energy
  - Mobility
  - Supplies & Waste
  - Biodiversity & Food
  - Coordination & Assessment
- 19 authors
- 100+ pages



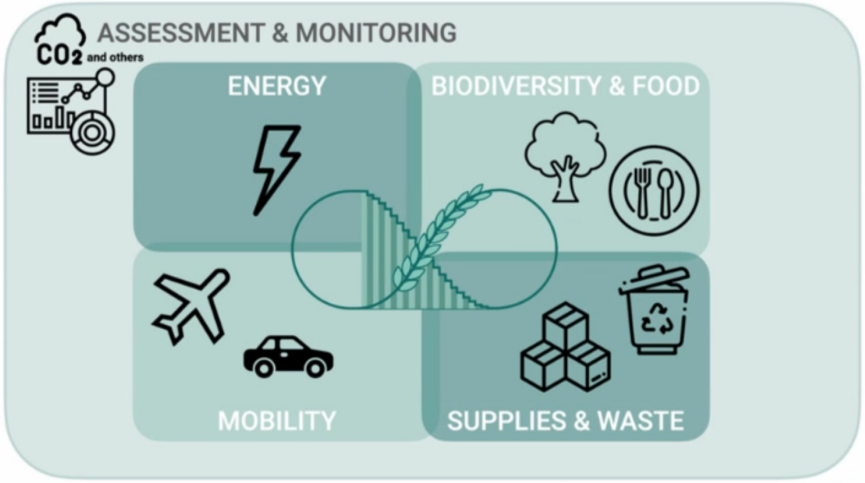
CaRe – Handover April 2021



Übergabe an den Präsidenten der MPG am 13. April 2021

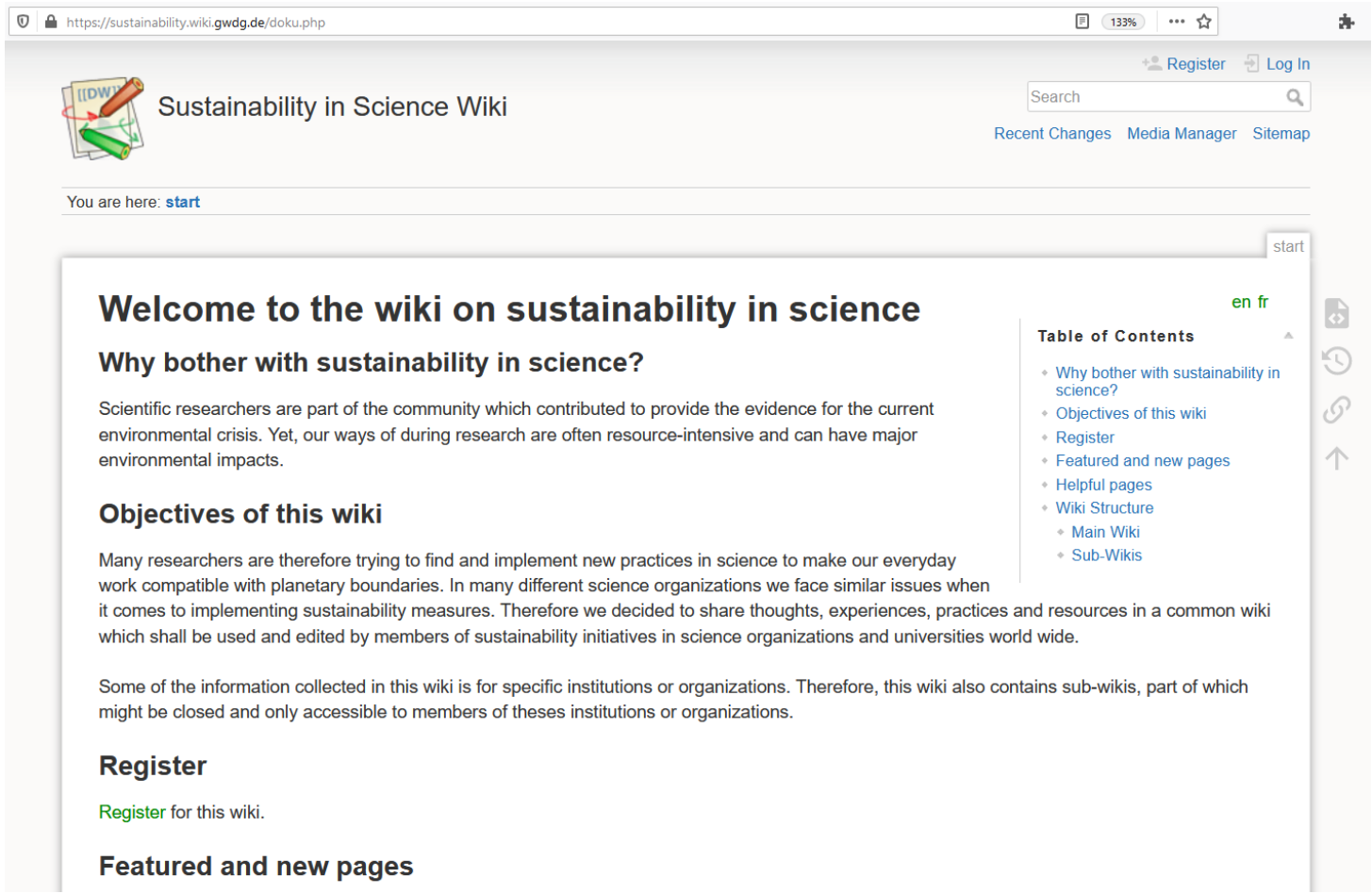


Katalog mit 31 Empfehlungen für einen nachhaltigen Wissenschaftsbetrieb in der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft



Sustainability Wiki

- https://sustainability.wiki.gwdg.de
- Shared knowledge platform for MPG internal use and for external use with other scientific institutions
- Low threshold accessibility
- Anyone can contribute
- Protected / Closed sub-wikis for initiatives / organisations



Publications

frontiers in Sustainability | Sustainable Organizations

SECTION ABOUT ARTICLES RESEARCH TOPICS FOR AUTHORS EDITORIAL BOARD ARTICLE ALERTS

‹ Articles

PERSPECTIVE article

Front. Sustain., 25 September 2020 | https://doi.org/10.3389/frsus.2020.567211

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1,791 TOTAL VIEWS

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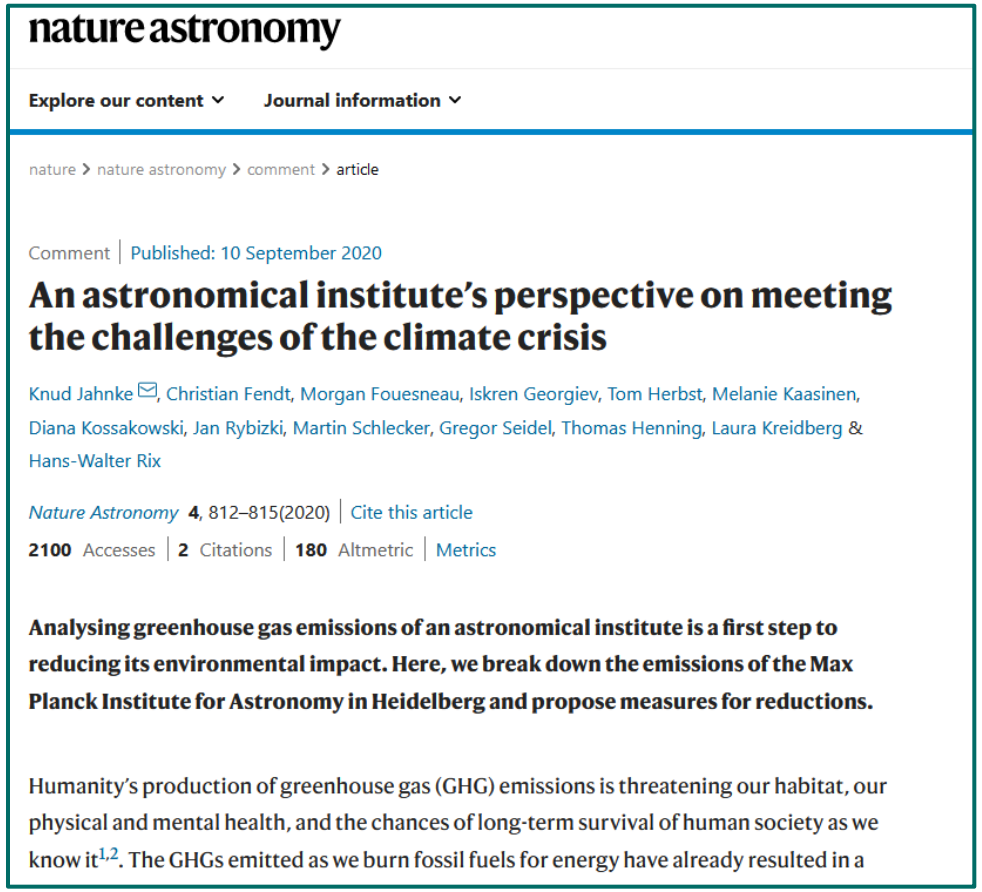
Making Science Organizations Sustainable—The Mission of the Max Planck Sustainability Network

Tanguy Fardet[1†], Moritz Hütten[2†], Sophie Lohmann[3†], Evelyn Medawar[4*†], Jana Milucka[5†], Jan Harald Roesch[6†], Julian D. Rolfes[7†] and Jakob Schweizer[8†]



nature astronomy

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Comment | Published: 10 September 2020

An astronomical institute's perspective on meeting the challenges of the climate crisis

Knud Jahnke, Christian Fendt, Morgan Fouesneau, Iskren Georgiev, Tom Herbst, Melanie Kaasinen, Diana Kossakowski, Jan Rybizki, Martin Schlecker, Gregor Seidel, Thomas Henning, Laura Kreidberg & Hans-Walter Rix

Nature Astronomy **4**, 812–815(2020) | Cite this article

2100 Accesses | **2** Citations | **180** Altmetric | Metrics

Analysing greenhouse gas emissions of an astronomical institute is a first step to reducing its environmental impact. Here, we break down the emissions of the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy in Heidelberg and propose measures for reductions.

Humanity's production of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is threatening our habitat, our physical and mental health, and the chances of long-term survival of human society as we know it[1,2]. The GHGs emitted as we burn fossil fuels for energy have already resulted in a

Internal Networking

Gesamtbetriebsrat
Max-Planck-Gesellschaft

Max Planck
PhDnet

Network of administrative assistants

Presidential Commission Climate Action

PostdocNet
Max Planck

MAX PLANCK
digital library

External Networking

- Exchange with colleagues from other research organizations and initiatives:

SUSTAIN –ABLE UCL

LEAF
The Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework

LEAN

1 point 5

HELMHOLTZ KLIMA INITIATIVE

UMWELTREFERAT STUDIERENDENVERTRETUNG LMU

HOCH N Nachhaltigkeit an Hochschulen

imb Institute of Molecular Biology

my green lab.

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JÜLICH FORSCHUNGSZENTRUM

Czech Academy of Sciences