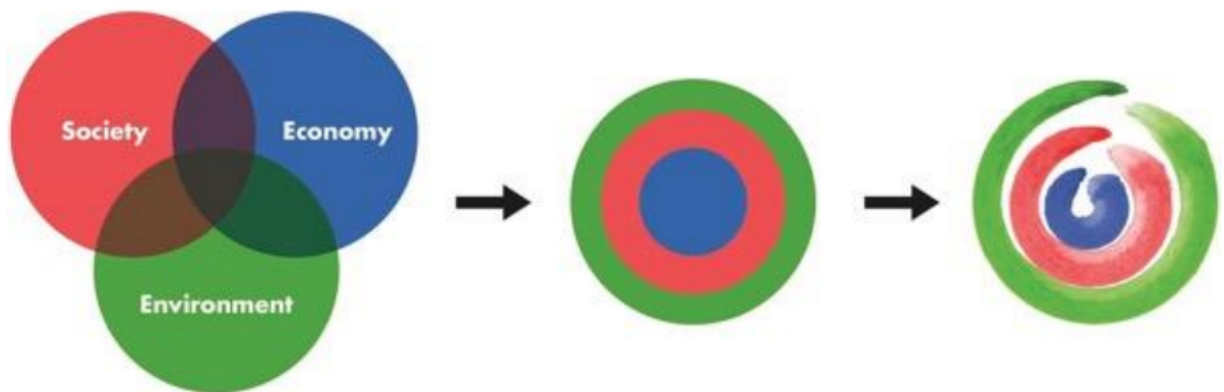


Sustainability Week Basel - A Summary and A Look to the Future

Another sustainability week has come and gone and we can't shake the feeling that they get bigger and better every year. We are grateful to each and every speaker and audience member for sharing in this experience with us - we learned about many varied sustainability issues and discussed the importance and relevance of them. This document is intended to serve as an electronic 'goodie bag' of information and links for those who came to an event and had more questions about a topic, for those who missed out on a lecture they were really hoping to visit, or for those who are interested in sustainability in general and would like to learn more - as well as everybody in between.

Sustainability Definition

To quote the [Sustainability Week Switzerland Impact Report](#): Our understanding of sustainability is based on the so-called priority model (depicted below). It describes the very crucial interdependencies where economy is embedded in society, which itself is embedded in ecology. Therefore, whatever is done on an economical level must be structured within acceptable social and ecological boundaries. The same applies to society, while acts within ecological boundaries. This very basic understanding of sustainable decision-making often seems to be forgotten or neglected. We want to emphasize on a fact that we need to decrease our ecological footprint and respect human rights before economic profit is pursued.



The priority model (middle) is an alternative to the widely used three-pillar model (left), in which sustainability is only represented by the small part where the three areas overlap. In contrast to the three-pillar model, the priority model does not allow for an overpowering economy, but it rather underlines the interaction between all three areas. Our values are embodied in our logo which is a visual representation of the priority model of sustainability.

However, just considering these three dimensions is not enough. Citing the Brundtland Report from 1987, sustainable development is "a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." This highlights the fact that we need to think in longer terms than we have so far. The present generation cannot live at the expense of the upcoming generations. Therefore, we need to think more intergenerationally.

Three more ingredients (depicted below) are left for what we consider a relevant sustainable development. Firstly, this does not just concern some spots on our earth - it concerns the whole planet, and therefore, every single one of us. Consequently, we need to achieve sustainable development starting from a local point of view, up to a regional and even a global perspective. Secondly, we need to aim for improvement wherever it is possible. We cannot just rely on a societal change. In order to preserve a functioning economy within a functioning society within a functioning ecosystem we need a multilayer approach. This means we have to act on an individual, societal and political level at the same time. Finally, the Swiss government has committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as well as ratified the Paris Agreement. We want to speed up this development and support our government as well as the society overall.



Our understanding of sustainability: the five ingredients for a sustainable development.

To find out more about our parent organisation the Sustainability Week Switzerland and other local weeks, you can visit their [website](#).

Events Summaries and Links

This year, our sustainability week had a grand total of 14 different events. If you weren't able to make it to everything you had hoped to, we have gathered information and related links (as well as videos of the events we could record) to help you keep finding new information.

IMPULS and AG Nachhaltigkeit Gather Town Exhibition - Student Actions for Sustainability

IMPULS supports lecturers and professors from all disciplines at the University of Basel who want to integrate sustainability topics into their courses and realise student projects. In this exhibition, the student projects of the autumn semesters 2019 to 2020 are presented.

Franziska Kastner from the [Sustainability Office](#) led this virtual tour to introduce the student sustainability projects of the [IMPULS](#) funding program and the [AG Nachhaltigkeit](#) (Sustainability Working Group). You can visit the virtual exhibition on [Gather Town](#), and check out the Sustainability Office's recently published [Sustainability Report](#) about the university's sustainability status.

MSD Film Screening: Growing Cities (2013)

This film about urban agriculture in the United States raises questions about food growing and distribution and about how urban spaces offer a host of solutions, not only in the form of good, local food, but also with connected vibrant communities (see the trailer [here](#)). We collaborated on this event with the [MSD Fachgruppe](#) (departmental student group of the MSD) who put together [these slides](#) and invited local groups handling Urban Agriculture in Basel for a post-film discussion.

Sustainable Cosmetics with Neomi Castellano

In this presentation, Neomi showed why we need cosmetics at all and what sustainable alternatives there are. What are the opportunities and weaknesses of natural cosmetics and what examples can we use to recognise which cosmetics are really sustainable? How does cosmetics marketing influence us and what can we do about it or deal with it?

After this workshop you will be able to better decide which cosmetics you want to use and which ones less. Watch the recording [here](#).

Consumption-Critical City Tour on the Topic of Sustainable Food

With a small group, this tour explored the city centre, critically and constructively questioned their own consumption and looked for alternative actions for a more sustainable future. The city walk was led by Roman Renz ([KonsumGlobal](#)). To profit from a virtual look at sustainable stores and businesses in Basel, visit the [AG Nachhaltigkeit](#)'s [Sustainability Map](#).

Animal Welfare in Agriculture: Is it Possible?

Dr. sc. nat. Florian Leiber, from the 'Research Institute of Organic Agriculture' ([FiBL](#)), talked to us about our understanding of animal welfare and its implementation in contemporary agriculture. Watch the recording [here](#).

Sustainable Travel - A Reality?

How does sustainable travel work? Is it an oxymoron? These questions were approached from different perspectives in this event. First, the [Sustainability Office](#) of the University of Basel presented the air travel project "[Less for More](#)."

Then, we learned from '[SimpleTrain](#),' a young start-up from Zurich, how it is possible to travel affordably and environmentally in Europe. Even though mobility is an essential part of sustainable travel, the ecological and social aspects of travel should not be neglected. The travel portal '[Fair Unterwegs](#)' focuses on these facets and shows alternatives and solutions around the topic of sustainable travel. Watch the recording [here](#).

Sustainable Economy in Switzerland: How can the Goals of the 2030 Agenda be Achieved?

Lately, the goal to achieve net zero emissions has led to many discussions, on the political level as well as in society. Since the economy plays a big role in enabling sustainable development, questions about the economy are often in the centre of attention in such discussion. Therefore, in this event we want to address questions like: How can the goals of the agenda 2030 actually be reached? What are the foundations and the concepts of a sustainable economy? Which political actions can be taken and which barriers exist?

More specifically, we had Prof. Dr. Frank Krysiak (from the University of Basel) speaking about sustainable goals and measures from the environmental economics perspective; Prof. Dr. Aya Kachi (from the University of Basel) speaking about politics of economies, Sandro Leuenberger (from [Klimaallianz Schweiz](#)) speaking about financial centres and sustainability, and Prof. Dr. Lucas Bretschger (from the ETH Zurich) speaking about the economic assessment of climate protection measures. Watch the recording [here](#).

Further links from this event are:

- [Climate Calculator](#)
- [Renewable energy data](#) from OurWorldInData
- [Swiss Household Energy Demand Survey](#) (SHEDS) by CREST (Competence Centre for Research in Energy, Society, and Transition)

- Frank Biermann, Norichika Kanie, and Rakhyun E. Kim, "[Global Governance by Goal-Setting: The Novel Approach of the UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)," *Science Direct: Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 26-27 (2017): 26-31.
[Sustainability rating of pension funds](#) by [Klimaallianz Schweiz](#) (presented by Mr. Leuenberger)

Offsetting Emissions by Planting Trees - (How) Does it Work?

It seems to almost have become a trend to plant a tree for everything. For searches on the internet, for buying t-shirts, in social projects. That's great, because trees bind CO2. But is that really sustainable? How exactly does it work and what do you actually have to pay attention to when planting trees?

Possible answers to these questions will be discussed by four selected experts and explained in more detail using their own exciting projects. These are Anja Zimmer ([Uni Basel on Ecosia](#)), Robin Ghnehm ([Nikin](#)), Khalil Beladi ([Desert Tree](#)) and Kai Reinacher ([Árbol Co\(n\)razón](#)).

Further links from this event are:

- Jean-François Bastin, Yelena Finegold, Claude Garcia, Danilo Mollicone, Marcelo Rezende, Devin Routh, Constantin M. Zohner, and Thomas W. Crowther, "[The Global Tree Restoration Potential](#)," *Science* 365 6448 (2019): 76-79.

Urban Agriculture Workshop

In this workshop, Gina Honauer showed us how we can use home-grown produce to

- 1) easily supplement your daily menu,
- 2) at the same time contribute to biodiversity and
- 3) live more sustainably in general.

You can visit her website ([edibale.ch](#)) or [Urban Agriculture Basel](#) for more information.

Water Lecture Series

This online lecture series discussed different aspects concerning water and sustainability.

Three experts from different fields talked about land use and its impact on the water cycle, (un)sustainable water governance and climate change in Switzerland, and about the impact of microplastics in the aquatic environment:

1. Land Use and its Impact on the Water Cycle

With Prof. Dr. Ansgar Kahmen (Associate Professor for Physiological Plant Ecology, University of Basel)

With our new way of industrialised land we have the ability to produce more food than ever. However, with this intensive land use come consequences for the water balance. During this presentation we will discuss the water cycle and how it is influenced by plants and ecosystems. Furthermore, we will focus on how land use affects local and continental water fluxes with associated feedbacks on soils and climate. Watch the recording [here](#).

2. (Un-)Sustainable Water Governance Under Climate Change in Switzerland

With Dr. Elke Kellner (Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL)

Glaciers are melting and we face more frequent and intense droughts. The Swiss Energy Strategy 2050 requests an increase in hydropower production, farmers depend on irrigation, and fish need sufficient water in the rivers to survive. How can we ensure a sustainable water use in the future? Who has the right to use the water of the new lakes in front of melting glaciers? Who is entitled to use water in a situation of scarcity? This presentation points out trade-offs inherent in sustainable development in dealing with water in Switzerland under climate change and enables a joint discussion of potential solutions. Watch the recording [here](#).

3. Microplastics in the Aquatic Environment

With Dr. Gabriel Erni Cassola (Program Man-Society-Environment, University of Basel)

This presentation gave an overview of biofilms on microplastics in our bodies of water and touched on biodegradation and pathogenic bacteria. Watch the recording [here](#).

Further links from this event are:

- Articles:

- Roland Geyer, Jenna R. Jambeck, and Kara Lavender Law, "[Production, Use, and Fate of All Plastics Ever Made](#)," *Science Advances* 3 7 (2017): 1-5.
- Jenna R. Jambeck, Roland Geyer, Chris Wilcox, Theodore R. Siegler, Miriam Perryman, Anthony Andrady, Ramani Narayan, and Kara Lavender Law, "[Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into the Ocean](#)," *Science* 347 6223 (2015): 768-771.
- Kara Lavender Law, "Plastics in the Marine Environment," *Annual Review of Marine Science* 9 (2017): 205-229 .
- Christoph D. Rummel, Annika Jahnke, Elena Gorokhova, Dana Kühnel, and Mechthild Schmitt-Jansen, "Impacts of Biofilm Formation on the Fate and Potential Effects of Microplastic in the Aquatic Environment", *Environ Sci Technol Lett* 4 7 (2017): 258-267.

- Rist S, Carney Almroth B, Hartmann NB, and Karlsson TM, “A critical perspective on early communications concerning human health aspects of microplastics,” *Sci Total Environ* 626 (2018): 720-726.
- Informative Slides:
 - PlasticsEurope “[Plastics – the Facts 2015 An analysis of European plastics production, demand and waste data](#)”

Tree planting and Reading

Following on from the event 'Offsetting Emissions by Planting Trees - (How) Does it Work?' by Anja Zimmer ([Uni Basel on Ecosia](#)), there was a tree planting and reading by [Naomi Zürcher](#) (Urban Forester/Consulting Arborist) on the last morning of the sustainability week.

Based on her experiences with the ceremonial planting of a [Haudenosaunee](#) Peace Tree in North America, Naomi Zürcher gave us insight into her thinking as an experienced tree expert. In doing so, Naomi Zürcher drew a parallel between the COVID-induced isolation of humans and the reality of life of many urban trees (which is often characterised by isolation) and that of forest trees. Naomi Zürcher's concern is to enable communal connections between urban trees as social creatures in order to promote their well-being, which is ultimately essential for us humans, as well as other living creatures, especially in view of changing climates and ecosystems in general.

With this planting, we not only paid respect to an Indigenous North American tradition, but also tied it in with a global initiative that bears witness to how the Haudenosaunee gave up war to live in peace.

This event was organised in collaboration with [Naomi Zürcher](#), the [Zentrale für Umweltausstellungen](#) (the Centre for Environmental Exhibitions), and the [Stadtgärtnerei Basel](#) (the city's Department for Gardening).

Further links from this event are:

- An interview with [Naomi Zürcher](#) to give a good overview of city trees, their loneliness and the risks to their health

Midday Tour in a Grossbasel Residential Area

When we think of 'Nature,' we often think of forests, lakes and mountain meadows. But nature can also be found in cities right next to streets, in gardens, on railway tracks and in parks - if

these areas are designed close to with the other species in mind. Unfortunately, this is often not the case.

Maya Bosshard showed us both how residential and urban spaces can be nature-oriented and why it is increasingly important. With examples spread all around the residential areas, we were inspired to stimulate our neighbourhoods with nature-friendly design ideas and that can provide a habitat for as many different species as possible in an otherwise hostile, small space for our local species. These areas have a lot of potential to be upgraded for the benefit of biodiversity and ecological connectivity in cities.

Further links from this event are:

- A [brochure](#) from the [Stiftung Wirtschaft und Ökologie](#) (Economy and Ecology Foundation) about integrating natural elements into residential and urban areas

D.I.Y. Laundry Detergent

Do you know what's in ready-made laundry detergents? Collective terms and chemical jargon often hide harmful ingredients that pollute our environment and our health. In Corinne's workshop, we learned to make environmentally-friendly and healthy liquid laundry detergent in just a few minutes using only four ingredients. If you want to learn how to make your own household products, visit Corinne's [website](#).

Social Sustainability

This final event aimed to expand the 'sustainability framework' into an often forgotten field, that of social justice and intersectionality.

Four presentations discussed various issues of social sustainability, including how sustainability movements are shaped by gender- and colonialism-related inequalities. The last presentation about individual mental health in relation to sustainability brought the Sustainability Week Basel 2021 to a close. Watch the recording [here](#).

Guest speakers:

Dr. Anne Tittor (Social Inequality and Climate Change)

Gotelind Alber (Gender and Climate Change)

Dr.in Mag.a Karin Fischer (Sustainability and Postcolonialism)

Anja Zimmer (Climate Anxiety)

Further links from this event are:

- Ulrike Röhr, Gotelind Alber, and Lisa Göldner, [*Gendergerechtigkeit als Beitrag zu einer erfolgreichen Klimapolitik: Forschungsreview. Analyse internationaler Vereinbarungen. Portfolioanalyse Zwischenbericht*](#) (Dessau-Roßlau: Umweltbundesamt, 2018).
- Meike Spitzner, Dr. Diana Hummel, Dr. Immanuel Stieß, Gotelind Alber, and Ulrike Röhr, [*Interdependente Genderaspekte der Klimapolitik. Gendergerechtigkeit als Beitrag zu einer erfolgreichen Klimapolitik: Wirkungsanalyse. Interdependenzen mit anderen sozialen Kategorien, methodische Aspekte und Gestaltungsoptionen*](#) (Dessau-Roßlau: Umweltbundesamt, 2020).
- Prof. Dr. Jana Rückert-John, Theresa Martens, Dr. René John (Projektleitung) Gotelind Alber, Ulrike Röhr, Prof. Dr. Ines Weller, and Mareike Tippe, [*Vorlufforschung: Interdependente Genderaspekte der Bedürfnisfelder Mobilität, Konsum, Ernährung und Wohnen als Grundlage des urbanen Umweltschutzes Gender Mainstreaming für eine zielgruppenspezifischere, effektivere urbane Umweltforschung*](#) (Dessau-Roßlau: Umweltbundesamt, 2020).
- Susan Clayton, "[*Climate Anxiety: Psychological Responses to Climate Change*](#)," *Journal of Anxiety Disorders* 74 (2020): 1-7.

Other Sustainability Week Projects

The sustainability week in Basel did not just organise events, but also worked on other projects to handle a wide range of sustainability issues in different formats.

Sustainable Recipe Book

Whether you've been eating sustainably for years, have recently discovered a passion for sustainable alternatives, or are still a little sceptical about what 'sustainability' and your diet have to do with each other, this collection of recipes has something for you.

From breakfast foods like pancakes and Zopf to meal ideas like falafel pitas, curries and stuffed bell peppers, the recipes show you how easily, cheaply and tastily you can make your cooking more environmentally friendly.

The introduction also gives some handy information about what 'eating sustainably' means, where you can source local, unpackaged foods, and why you may consider implementing even just one more sustainable meal into your diet every now and then. You can explore and download the book [here](#).

A Student Guide to Everyday Sustainable Living

We know that many students are aware of sustainability issues and are motivated to do their bit for the planet, but either do not know how or are worried about needing to change their entire lifestyle. With this handy guide featuring written instructions and illustrative drawings we take you through an average student's day to show you the small changes that can be made here and there to have a positive effect on the people and world around you. You can explore and download the guide [here](#) (coming soon!).

Info-Hub

This project is about educating the university community and the people who follow our social media about sustainability. Each week, an interesting fact is presented on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#), as well as the solution to the problem presented a few days later. Topics range from fashion, food and travel to energy and social sustainability. The group aims to generate a deeper understanding of the issues and at the same time provide practical tips for a more sustainable life.

Through collaborations with local businesses and organisations, the group also offers vouchers to people who respond to the posts and critically engage with the content. This both generates awareness about sustainability and also supports local, sustainable restaurants, shops and foundations.

The AG Nachhaltigkeit (Sustainability Working Group)

Our sustainability week works in collaboration with the University of Basel's [AG Nachhaltigkeit](#) (Sustainability Working Group) - a network of university members (students, post-docs and professors) running projects to make the university and city of Basel more sustainable. If you enjoyed the sustainability week, you'll also enjoy the [AG's new Lecture Series](#).

Active for Sustainability outside of the University Context

Of course, there are always many places and spaces you can get involved in sustainability in Basel outside of the university context. These are just some of the worthwhile groups and businesses you can check out:

Strike For Future in Basel

We tackle the climate crisis, all together!

The Strike For Future stands for change from below. It lays the foundation for a long-term change towards a sustainable and climate-just society.

In Basel, the "KlimaBündnis Basel" has emerged from the Strike For Future, where several different movements as Climatestrike, feminism strike, or organisations as trade unions and also parties are part of.

On 21 May, there will be a colourful day of action all over Switzerland (save the date!). But Strike For Future is not just a single day. It is a long-term process that continues. More and more local groups are being formed, where people from the neighbourhood, at work or among friends meet and talk about the climate. Ideas are sought on how to change things locally. There are also regular climate meetings where people gather and exchange ideas. During Corona, we meet online. Local groups and climate meetings are organised in collaboration with the "Klimagerechtigkeitsinitiative Basel 2030".

Are you interested in getting involved? We are always looking for people who would like to join local groups, help organise 21 May, or recruit new actors. The climate needs you now and we look forward to getting to know you!

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us:

- Contact KlimaBündnis Basel → info@klimabuendnis-basel.ch
- Contact for the local groups → organizing@basel2030.ch
- Website: <https://klimabuendnis-basel.ch/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/klimabuendnisbasel/>

Klimagerechtigkeitsinitiative Basel 2030

The [Climate Justice Initiative "Basel 2030"](#) calls for appropriate action in the face of the climate crisis. Therefore, the goal to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2030 and climate justice should be part of the constitution of Basel. Our goal is to use the direct democratic tool of the popular initiative to change the constitution of the Canton of Basel-Stadt to include the goal of carbon neutrality by 2030 in all sectors and institutions.

Would you like to work with us? We are a team of people living in Basel from different backgrounds and generations. There are several working groups (AGs) looking for new members: Transformative Community Organizing, Communication, Social Media, Research.

Moreover, we are organised in different local groups according to the district in which we are living. Have a look on our website, support us financially or on social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)), [register to our newsletter](#) or contact us. We are looking forward to getting to know you.

Leihlager

At the Leihlager you can borrow great objects – exactly when you need them!

Lending stores, also known as “libraries of things,” have sprung up all over the world in recent years and are enjoying great popularity. Similar to a library, everyday objects that are only used occasionally can be borrowed here. The motto “use instead of own” is intended to prevent everyday objects from lying around uselessly in the cupboard and to promote a conscious use of resources. Visit their [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages for more information.



Of course there are always more sustainable groups and businesses so we recommend visiting [Basel Wandel's website](#) for a more comprehensive list of organisations and taking a look at our [Sustainability Map](#) for more businesses near you doing their bit for a brighter future.

Come Join Us

If you've made it this far in our document, thank you! You're a true sustainability warrior. Why not consider joining us to organise our next sustainability week or come to an [AG Nachhaltigkeit](#) (Sustainability Working Group) meeting and join a project group, or even start one of your own? We have come to notice that there is a certain motivation and energising that we get from working regularly with like-minded people and we whole-heartedly recommend bringing your perspectives and interests to our groups and getting your hands dirty with some fulfilling work.

Get in touch with the sustainability week team here: sdubs@unibas.ch

And with the AG Nachhaltigkeit (Sustainability Working Group) here:

ag-nachhaltigkeit@unibas.ch

WE LOOK FORWARD TO COLLABORATING AND SEEING YOU AT THE SUSTAINABILITY WEEK 2022!



Muguette Müller
Pedagogy M.A.
Program



Lucia Letsch
Geography and Economics B.A.
Program



Lea Masserey
Sustainable Development M.A.
Finances



Anja Zimmer
Psychology PhD Student
Program



Natalie Andreae
Environmental Sciences M.A.
Communication



Jeannine Fluri
Biology B.A.
Program und Finances



Neomi Castellano
Pedagogy B.A.
Communication



Lea Zirngibl
Sociology and Gender Studies B.A.
Program



Antonia Kellner
Biology B.A.
Program



Selina Maria Reusser
Changing Societies M.A.
Program und Communication

Teil von:



**STUDENTS FOR
SUSTAINABILITY
AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF BASEL**

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Unterstützt von:



BLUTSPENDE SRK BEIDER BASEL

Masserey Intérieur

Parquet, Vinyle, Linoléum, Tapis – Stores et Rideaux – Mobilier contemporain – Lits – Sièges