

## SESSION RESULTS

2020 CLIMATE ALLIANCE DIGITAL DAYS



Climate Alliance

### 30 years Climate Alliance - Our network and the future

#### Minutes and results

Clear and ambitious target is a prerequisite for effective climate action. Since Climate Alliance's founding 30 years ago, CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets have become mainstream at all levels and sectors. Yet such targets are only a starting point. In this session, we discussed the role of climate targets for municipal climate action using Climate Alliance's 2019 Net-Zero discussion paper as a basis. How do members approach the wide variety of climate targets and translate them into concrete action? What should the role of our network be going into the future?

#### Agenda:

- Introduction
- Background and Context
- First results of the interviews
- Inputs: City of Tübingen and Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (ifeu)
- Breakout Discussions
- Summary and next steps

Short historical overview of the Climate Alliance's discussions about targets by Thomas Brose

Summary of the interview results conducted with selected cities before the session:

- Targets are crucial, but need political support and ambitious targets.
- Without any targets there are no measures of implementation. Targets need to be „digestible“.
- Opinions differ: Some municipalities are not interested in new targets, while others said that CA needs more ambitious targets.
- Beside the CO<sub>2</sub> targets, targets concerning rainforest protection and indigenous people should also be emphasized.
- Important: Some cities are considering broaden the scope of their activities and strengthening the focus on consumption areas (grey emissions). There is also the need to strengthen the dialogue and cooperation with all relevant actors in the city (e.g. university, hospital, industry)

#### Questions and Answers:

##### John Tanner:

**Q:** How do we continue as municipalities to play our part. We don't want just more targets, since we have Paris targets. In Oxford we talk about zero emissions and discuss how we can reach that goal by 2050 and even 2030, according to some municipalities.

We need input how to reach our targets, and what we can do in the next step, in the next year

**A:** we need a balance between digestible targets and action.

##### Paul Polfer:

**Q:** What did interviewed cities say about their current monitoring? Do they concentrate on their own emissions or do they already monitor emissions they don't have a direct influence on?

**A:** The biggest part cannot be influenced by cities. The monitoring of emissions is very difficult, they have to do the monitoring, but it is not always clear how to do it.



Next action: we need a lot of good quality monitoring (that is comparable with other cities and countries) so we can see the impact of policies and adjust them.

### **Inputs:**

#### **Impact potential of local mitigation - Angelica Parr from ifeu – Research Institute**

Impact potential of municipal measures for national climate protection:

- What contribution can local authorities make to achieve the national climate targets?
- How can existing mandatory tasks of the municipalities be used more for climate protection?
- What proportion of the reduction potential can be increased by implementing climate protection concepts and by means of a climate protection management system? In particular by calling up further funding (GHG savings and other effects?)

Extrapolation of the effects in Germany under the assumption of the widespread presence of climate protection managers:

- Results show that climate protection measures are better implemented when a climate protection manager is present,
- There are even noticeable gradual differences regarding the effect strength of climate protection if climate protection managers are full-employed, half employed or if the job is not done by the intended qualified personnel.

#### **Local climate protection in Tübingen (DE) – Bernd Schott, City of Tübingen**

Mr. Schott presented the political strategy and the steps for the implementation of the climate protection of the City of Tübingen:

Mission statement for energy and climate policy (enacted in 2019):

- Until 2030 the energy supply in Tübingen shall be climate-neutral (net-zero).
- Municipality and subsidiary companies set an example for climate protection.
- The infrastructure should offer possibilities for energy saving and climate protection.
- The urban society will be informed as well as motivated to protect the climate and to save energy.

#### **Concrete measures of the City of Tübingen**

The definition of the target „Tübingen climate-neutral till 2030“ and the balancing orient themselves also towards decided or planned climate protection measures (municipal options for action in Tübingen):

- Energy saving in the fields of electricity, heat, mobility;
- Increase in the number of green electricity customers;
- Promoting the use of renewable energies;
- Integrated energy management;
- Construction of renewable energy plants outside the municipal area by the municipal utility;
- Promotion of construction with timber;
- Promotion of a sustainable forestry;



## Proposals for the discussion in the breakout session

- Develop a document (similar to the Bozen-Declaration formulated in 2000) with the description of principles and the path for different targets to be presented at the next CAIC in Wels 2021;
- The discussed expectations can be included in this document (Charta), which acknowledges the different targets on the international level. This document should work as a guideline for municipalities how to handle the different targets.

## Breakout Session Results

Working Group Jonas Rönnefahrt:

- Charta is seen as useful in the way presented by Thomas
- It should contain links between the European and national level
- Working Group of cities that are already involved in the discussion should be used to discuss the elements for a Charta (it should be discussed HOW targets can be achieved, i.e. the application of different instruments)
- Regardless of the climate objective, clearer instructions for action and accounting principles (e.g. no certificate purchase) should be defined.

Working Group Edgar Bazing:

- A lot of municipalities have already adopted more ambitious targets than CA targets as well as sustainability goals and do not need new CA targets. They prefer support from CA in specific topics, e. g. how to handle compensation.
- However, some members of CA wish that CA updates its targets because the CA targets have helped to promote more ambitious climate protection activities within municipalities.
- Besides CO2 goals, consider other goals, eg. 100 percent renewables, and qualitative goals, eg. with regard to lifestyle, land consumption, urban sprawl.
- General agreement that methods and support of CA are needed, e.g. for compensation, monitoring of targets, evaluation what is good or bad for climate mitigation.

Working Group Miguel Morcillo:

- Climate Alliance can use the decision of European Parliament about 60% till 2030 reduction politically;
- EU should push member states to provide tools for the municipalities for more ambitious goals;
- Climate Alliance need goals according to the Zeitgeist, how to deal with compensation and carbon neutrality;
- We need quantitate and qualitative goals, protection of rainforest is qualitative;
- The monitoring situation is very different in the different countries, a discussion in the national working groups is necessary, we need to consider the diversity of the different countries;
- Accurate data are necessary to monitor the goals;
- A community of practitioners is necessary to exchange about the achievement of the goals, we need more instruments;

