



RESEARCH AND DIALOGUE FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES



Dear readers,

despite the worrying global situation, RIFS has begun the new year with a spring in its step: New projects are starting, while others are delivering their first results. To name one example: Art Fellow Swantje Güntzel recently undertook an artistic project in the Arctic as part of her fellowship, and the call for application for the Potsdam Summer School is open. Find out more about these and other activities at RIFS in this newsletter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us: media@rifs-potsdam.de.

We wish you a happy, healthy and successful New Year!

Best regards from Potsdam,

Matthias Tang, Head of Press and Communication

PS: To learn more about our work between the newsletters, you can follow us on [LinkedIn](#) or on [Mastodon](#) and [X](#). And watch out on our [website](#).

NEWS



Music Sector

Values and Traditions Slow Transition to Sustainability in Classical Concert Industry

There is a growing interest in sustainability among orchestras, ensembles and concert halls in Germany –in terms of reducing their environmental impacts, and in relation to programming, such as creating concert formats that engage with sustainability on a thematic level. Is the classical concert industry contributing to the broader transformation of society towards sustainability? RIFS researchers see room for improvement, finding that many institutions and orchestral musicians are not sufficiently self-critical in their approach to sustainability issues.

[Learn more](#)



Call for Applications
Potsdam Summer School 2024
Focuses on Ecosystems

The 10th Potsdam Summer School will explore the theme of "Ecosystems Change & Resilience in the Anthropocene" and will take place on 16–20 September 2024. Early-career scientists and young professionals from the private sector, government agencies, and non-governmental organisations are encouraged to submit their applications by 30 April 2024.

[Learn more](#)



Art Fellowship
Giving the Arctic Back Its Ice

Even if the global community were to double down in its efforts to protect the climate, it would not be able to give the Arctic Ocean back its ice. But, in a symbolic act, Hamburg-based conceptual artist Swaantje Güntzel has done just that: on 18 November, at Båtsfjord in the far north of Norway, she produced ice cubes from meltwater taken from the North Pole and let them slip into the sea. This artistic intervention is part of Güntzel's year-long fellowship at the Research Institute for Sustainability - Helmholtz Centre Potsdam (RIFS).

[learn more](#)



Horizon Europe Grant A Network for Healthier Cities

The transport sector is a major contributor to environmental degradation, including air and noise pollution, damage to ecosystems and human health. To monitor air and noise pollution and generate data that will aid in assessing their health impacts related to it, the new research project Net4Cities will develop research infrastructure in eleven European cities in ten countries. This research and infrastructure will support efforts to implement the Zero Pollution Action Plan as part of the European Green Deal. The project is coordinated by the Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS) in Potsdam.

[Learn more](#)

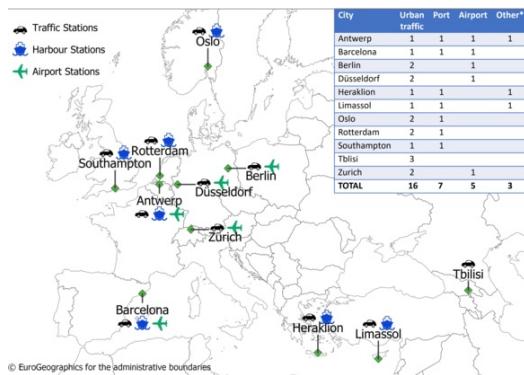


Climate Policy Pivotal Moment for Humanity as Tipping Point Threats and Opportunities Accelerate

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the world's largest dedicated multilateral climate fund, and aims to support climate mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries. Mobilizing financial resources from the private sector is an important priority for the donor countries backing the GCF. However, so far the GCF has underperformed in this respect. According to a new study by Thomas Kalinowski (Ewha Womans University, Seoul, and Research Institute for Sustainability - Helmholtz Centre Potsdam) this is due to numerous shortcomings in the GCF's strategy.

[learn more](#)

NEW PROJECTS



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[Learn more](#)

Sinking Cities

Cultural heritage and climate adaptation in coastal cities



Humankind has grappled with flooding and changing climatic conditions for thousands of years. These experiences are reflected in diverse cultural practices, narratives, films, books, artifacts and the built environment. Such cultural heritage resources are already being used in support of efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The use of archival material to reconstruct historical flooding events is one example. Cultural heritage is even deployed to build confidence in adaptation measures. Despite this, in the context of climate change, cultural heritage is rarely perceived as a potential resource - instead, the public conversation tends to focus on the looming loss of distinct cultural assets.

[Learn more](#)

PUBLICATIONS

RIFS DISCUSSION PAPER

Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS)
Potsdam, December 2023

US Hydrogen Policy

Paving the Way for Energy Independence,
Technology Leadership and Decarbonization

Laima Eicke

Part of a series edited by Yana Zabanova and Rainer
Quitzow



RIFS DISCUSSION PAPER

Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS)
Potsdam, December 2023

The EU in the Global Hydrogen Race

Bringing together Climate Action, Energy Security,
and Industrial Policy

Yana Zabanova

Part of a series edited by Yana Zabanova and Rainer
Quitzow



Research and practice to scale co-creation and reflection

How can we strengthen a relational culture of communication for climate action at COP28 in Dubai?

Niko Schäpke, Felix Beyers, Carolin Fraude, Kathleen A. Mar, Heike Schroeder, Valerie Voggenreiter, Nicolai Herzog, Christine Wamsler, Thomas Bruhn, Mark G. Lawrence



RIFS Discussion Paper

Research and practice to scale co-creation and reflection:

How can we strengthen a relational culture of communication for climate action at COP28 in Dubai?

Schäpke, Niko; Beyers, Felix; Fraude, Carolin; Mar, Kathleen A.; Schroeder, Heike; Voggenreiter, Valerie; Herzog, Nicolai; Wamsler, Christine; Bruhn, Thomas; Lawrence, Mark G.; (2023)

A Selection of our Latest Scientific Publications

[DOWNLOAD](#)

NEW ON THE RIFS BLOG



COP28 in Dubai: Greenwashing or Genuine Ambitions
Felix Beyers, Thomas Bruhn, Carolin Fraude, Niko Schäpke, Nico Herzog und Jeremy Dommnich
(Clingendael Institute)



What Municipalities Need to Master Conflicts
Viola Gerlach, Victoria Luh



The Geopolitics and Decarbonization of Fertilizer Supply Chains
Tassilo Scalera



Bridging the Gap? CityScienceLab Hamburg: An experimental field for cooperation between art and science
Teresa Erbach

[TO THE BLOG](#)

EVENTS

24.-25.01.2024

Kick-off event
HORIZON Research and Innovation Project ICEBERG

05.02.2024

Workshop/Call for Papers
Climate Finance and Investment in Times of Crisis: Towards a
New Partnership with the Global South



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