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Sustainable University – a status quo

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Abstract

Universities today have the responsibility to help create a knowledge base which can be used to solve economic, social and ecological challenges. Toward this end, sustainability is an option to re-think education and research as well as institutional structures. For the Sustainable University team the question emerged how sustainable university tasks can be met in different realms and levels of the university. The first step towards change is the observation of the status quo. In 2005, a comprehensive survey of all campus community members' attitudes and opinions regarding sustainability was conducted on the campus of the University of Lüneburg. Findings indicate that campus community members are highly receptive to the notion of sustainable development; this suggests that there is high potential on campus to develop sustainability as a guiding principle for the university. These results are a fertile ground to expand sustainability initiatives in the way to a sustainable organisation.