

Project Group (Number and Name): 22- Who transforms cities? Actors of a more sustainable lifestyle in a city or a village

Comment

Authors of the Comment: common effort

Comment:

With the increased effect of climate change, inner cities are experiencing more and more pressure through intense heat waves in the summer. The difference between rural and urban areas can be up to 10 degrees increasing heat induced stress (Stadtklima, 2022). The city of Lüneburg is not exempted from this fate. One of the zones of major concern is the „Am Sande“ public square. Thus, immediate action is required for Lüneburg to be able to adapt to these increasing environmental stresses. However, the creation of sustainable cities must not be limited to environmental action but should also concern the engagement of its citizens as well as the inequality aspect. In order to apply these concepts to Lüneburg, we would like to see more greenery in the city, by for example adding trees, more grass, as well as green walls. Additionally, cities should offer more common spaces, signified by seating areas with infrastructure, such as waste management and bike parking. This will invite a wider range of people to rest, relax, and get together. In order to improve living conditions it is also essential to install public bathrooms. This will have the effect of easing shopping experiences as well as supporting the homeless population equally.

However, applying these ideas to a setting like Lüneburg evokes a multitude of problems. Firstly, opening up sealed ground is a risky endeavor for Lüneburg, as there is already a great presence of land subsiding for certain quarters estimated at up to 13 cm per year (Lüneburg, 2022) and opening up the streets would accelerate this process. Although open water can have a cooling effect on its surroundings, there is also significant vaporization in summer leading to water loss and energy consumption. Although some of the irrigation could be done via the water installation, additional care taking is required which adds material costs and maintenance work. At this moment there still remains a question of funding and it is not feasible under current conditions. We are well aware of the fact that this solution is not optimal for all parts of the population and that urban planning should aim for integrating a multitude of different target groups.

In general, one cannot ignore the fact that not all citizens are in favor of transforming cities in a sustainable manner. Thus, it cannot be guaranteed that there will be unrest in regards to the proposed changes. This is especially true for Lüneburg, as there is a high amount of listed roofs, facades and pavements which both complicates the implementation as well as it enforces the opinion of sticking to the status quo.

References:

Lüneburg: Ein Stadtteil versinkt - das Senkungsgebiet. (2022). Abgerufen am 13. Oktober 2022, von <https://www.lueneburger-heide.de/stadt/sehenswuerdigkeit/13264/lueneburg-senkungsgebiet-lueneburg.html>

Stadtklima- Die städtische Wärmeinsel, abgerufen am 12.10.2022

https://www.dwd.de/DE/forschung/klima_umwelt/klimawirk/stadtpl/projekt_warmeinseln/projekt_waermeinseln_node.html

Video Information

Title of the Video: Group_22

Authors of the Video: common effort

Music: made by ourselves (feat. Felix, Lotte, Stina, Selma)

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