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# “Benefits from Sustainability?!”

**bonnalliance<sup>ICB</sup> lecture series**

in cooperation with the International Centre for Sustainable Development (IZNE) of the Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg, University of Applied Sciences (H-BRS)

**bicc** Bonn  
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## Sustainable Bonn: Sustainability on a Regional Level

Prof. Dr. Jakob Rhyner, Bonn Alliance/ICB and University of Bonn

With his expertise acquired through his various positions within well-known Institutes in Bonn, Prof. Dr. Jakob Rhyner presents a theoretical framework, which provides an overview of sustainability on a regional level.

Prof. Dr. Rhyner holds a PhD degree in Theoretical Physics from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zürich. His current position is as Scientific Director at the Bonn Alliance for Sustainability Research/ Innovation Campus Bonn (ICB) and as professor for Global Change and Systemic Risks at the Agricultural Faculty of the University of Bonn. Starting his academic career over thirty years ago, Jakob Rhyner has built up a reputable portfolio of scientific publications and conference presentations. His field of research is in Environmental Risks and Human Security, Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development, Globalisation, Migration.

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## Bonn's Sustainability Strategy

Verena Schwarte, City of Bonn



In February 2019 the City of Bonn presented its first sustainability strategy as a result of a two-year consultation-process with key local stakeholders from politics, civil society, science and businesses. As Germany's United Nations city, Bonn has become a sustainability hub. Also, the city itself engages actively in the systematic and strategic implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Bonn Sustainability Strategy provides a framework for the next years until 2030. In her talk, Verena Schwarte elaborates on the strategy and dives into the discussion with us.

Verena Schwarte studied Economics in Bonn, Bath (UK) and Trier and holds a diploma in Economics with a specialization in international relations and development. She currently works in the Department for International Affairs and Global Sustainability at the City of Bonn. She coordinated the process of developing the first sustainability strategy and is responsible for international cooperation and project partnerships.

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## Renewable Resources, Innovative Ideas and Job Prospects: Benefits from Sustainability Transfer

Prof. Dr. Ralf Pude, University of Bonn (Campus Klein-Altendorf)

Miscanthus, Silphium perfoliatum, Sida, Helianthus tuberosus and fast-growing tree species, such as the Paulownia are all renewable resources with which one can create innovative futureproof solutions to complex societal questions. In his talk, Prof. Dr. Pude shares one of his success stories on the process of growing a renewable resource that is reused and recycled until the loop closes.

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Prof. Dr. Ralf Pude is head of the Renewable Resources Research Group at the Institute of Crop Science Resource Conservation. His research group contributes to the University's research profile „Innovation and Technology for a Sustainable Future“ by developing innovative products and production strategies for a bio-based economy. Prof. Dr. Ralf Pude has been working on this topic for decades and is an expert in his field. The research group is known for its knowledge-transfer focus connecting research with policy and practice and is specialised in the study of perennial biomass plants, bio-based products and medicinal plants.

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Benita Schuba, University of Bonn (Transfer-Audit)

Research improves our quality of life. Still, the gap between academic knowledge and our real-life world needs to be addressed. Many German universities as well as the University of Bonn, are focussing on knowledge-transfer and therefore offering professionalized services on the alternative career path “Start-ups”. Universities become a place for experimentation and innovation to answer pressing political, economic and societal issues.

At the University of Bonn knowledge-transfer is serviced at the transfer centre ‘enaCom’: enabling people to create opportunities under the conditions of Communication, Companionship, Commitment, Communion and Commercialization. The transfer centre builds a start-up culture offering co-working and advisory services during all start-up phases. enaCom will move to new premises in January 2020, then offering co-working spaces for start-up teams. Benita Schuba is one of the Transfer and Start-up Project Managers within the University of Bonn.

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Sustainability research should take place in a direct exchange and dialogue with politics, society and economy from the local to the global level. This is the guiding principle connecting the six partner institutions of the Bonn Alliance for Sustainability Research.

[www.bonn-alliance.uni-bonn.de/en](http://www.bonn-alliance.uni-bonn.de/en)  
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## Urban Biodiversity in the Region Bonn–Rhein–Sieg: Benefits of biological diversity for urban development

Prof. Dr. Wiltrud Terlau, Hochschule Bonn–Rhein–Sieg and Biodiversity Bonn (BION)

One in ten regional plant species are extinct. This is one of many results, which scientists from the Hochschule Bonn–Rhein–Sieg (BRSU) and the University of Bonn published in a collaborative study about the biological diversity in Bonn and surroundings. Prof. Dr. Wiltrud Terlau and Prof. Dr. Maximilian Weigend present the study and the implications of the results on our regional biodiversity.

Prof. Dr. Wiltrud Terlau received the title Dr. rer. pol. (PhD in Economics) at the University of Muenster. She is the (founding) director of the International Centre for Sustainable Development (IZNE), holds the professorship for macroeconomics and economic policy at the department of management sciences at the Hochschule Bonn–Rhein–Sieg, is speaker of the section Risk-Security-Resilience (Graduierteninstitut NRW) and board member of the Biodiversity Network Bonn (BION e.V.). Her field of research covers the topics of Sustainable and Resilient Cities, Biodiversity, Natural Resources and Waters, Environmental Risk and Resilience, Sustainable Agri-Food Systems, CSR, Bioeconomy.

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## Prof. Dr. Maximilian Weigend, University of Bonn and Biodiversity Bonn (BION)

Prof. Dr. Maximilian Weigend received the title Dr. rer. nat. in 1997 at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München and the habilitation in botany in 2004. He is the director of the Botanical Garden at the University of Bonn, speaker of the network group BION- Biodiversity Bonn 2014-2019 and current president of the Verband Botanischer Gärten. The research group of Prof. Dr. Weigend focusses on the study of plant systematics and biology and conservation and biogeography.



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## Conditions for a good Circular Economy: Perspectives from Theory and Practice

Dr. Holger Berg, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy

Circular economy seeks sustainable solutions for product and material use. Its overall goal is resource protection and efficiency for sustainable development. Dr. Holger Berg introduces the topic of circular economy by explaining its theoretical foundations.

Dr. Berg holds a PhD in Business and Economics from the University of Wuppertal. He co-heads the research unit Digital Transformation within the Circular Economy Division at the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy. His field of research is in Digital Transformation for Sustainability Circular Economy, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Resource Efficiency.

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## Circular Economy in Practice: Sleeping on CO<sub>2</sub>

Dr. Persefoni Hilken and Dr. Berit Stange, Covestro AG

What does a circular economy model put into practice look like? Dr. Persefoni Hilken and Dr. Berit Strange will be sharing their company's view on circular economy and present a breakthrough innovation implementing circular economy principles in the industry.

With their new CO<sub>2</sub> based product, which can be used for example for mattresses, sports floor binders and elastic textile fiber, they present an innovative technology that turns an abundant greenhouse gas into a valuable raw material.

Dr. Hilken is venture manager for cardyon® and has a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Cologne. Dr. Strange is project manager for circular economy within the Business Unit PUR and has a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Marburg. Both are working for Covestro Deutschland AG.

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## Dynamics of Social Protection and Economic Development in Low and Middle Income Countries

Prof. Dr. Katja Bender, Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg

Throughout the last two decades social protection has gained increasing attention at national and international policy levels. Social protection is expected to contribute to development, including economic development. This process is also reflected by the Agenda 2030, which addresses social protection within four Sub-Goals. Prof. Dr. Katja Bender and Callistus Agbaam will address the relationship between social protection and economic development drawing on insights from research and practice.

Prof. Dr. Katja Bender holds a PhD in Economics from the Ruhr-University of Bochum. She is professor for economics at the Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg and director of the International Centre for Sustainable Development (IZNE). She is also currently the vice-president of the European Association for Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI). She has conducted several research projects on social protection and health in low and middle income countries and worked as policy advisor on social protection. She is now leading the project “Energy Self-sufficiency for Health Facilities in Ghana” funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

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MA Callistus Agbaam, Ruhr-University Bochum

Mr. Callistus Agbaam holds a postgraduate degree in Development Studies from the University of the Western Cape, South Africa and is currently pursuing his PhD title. He is leading the project “Determinants of Public Support for Social Protection Reforms in Developing Countries” at the Institute of Development Research and Development Policy, Ruhr-University Bochum. His research interests lie in Social Protection in Developing countries, Poverty and Health Equity, Political Economy, Public Policy, Inclusive Development and Rights-based Approaches to Development.



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