



**ÖKOSTATION**



# Learning to Shape the Future

Education for Sustainable  
Development (ESD)  
at the Freiburg Oekostation

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## Freiburg Oekostation

- Environmental education centre
- Founded in 1986 by the BUND (Friends of the Earth)
- Ecological building and natural garden
- 15 000 visitors annually



## Focus of my presentation

- How can we engage people to actively participate in sustainable development?
- How can we successfully establish an environmental education centre?

## The beginning

- The centre was created at a favourable point in time:
- Increased environmental awareness of the German Population in the 80's
- A big change in environmental policies
- It was built with the City of Freiburg as partner
- On the occasion of the Federal State Gardening Exhibition





## An information centre for a broad public

- Open to visitors of all ages, educational levels and social classes
- Easily accessible events open to families, professionals, students, and citizens

## A centre where people can learn about

- Nature conservation
- Health
- Sustainable consumption
- Organic gardening
- Ecological house building
- Saving energy and more





## Training and support

- For committed citizens
- For green city projects e.g. urban gardening and tree „sponsoring“



## The green classroom

- Direct hands-on-experience of nature
- From early childhood on
- Out of school education
- 400 school-classes and kindergartens each year



## Class rooms subjects

- Biodiversity
- Organic agriculture
- Nutrition
- Renewable energies
- Solar cooking
- Avoiding waste





## Cooperation partners

- The City of Freiburg
- The Freiburg waste disposal company
- The Nature Foundation of the Federal State Baden-Württemberg

## Cooperation with schools

- Training for students participating in school solar projects
- School garden projects





## Learning about sustainability

As a result of UN World Summits of both Rio de Janeiro and Johannesburg

- New approaches to learning
- Developing knowledge, skills, attitudes, values
- Global responsibility



## Learning shaping competencies

- Creative and critical thinking
- Imagining future scenarios
- Solving complex problems in a collaborative way
- Participating in democratic processes



## Making use of the political framework

- The Oekostation took part in the UN Decade 2005-2014
  - Awarded an official project
- At present participates in UNESCO Global Action Programme



## Networking – a substantial part of our work

- With other eco-centres, educational institutions, initiatives
- Political and civil society stakeholders
- Municipality
- Business companies



## International exchange

- Guided tours, seminars for foreign groups
- Internship for international students
- Partnership with two Japanese eco-centres





*Thank you for  
your attention!*