



Europäische Schule RheinMain
The European School

Joint Sustainability Committee / Gemeinsamer Nachhaltigkeitsausschuss 19.03.2025

Present: Tom Zijlstra, Gitta Lotz, Daniella Schmitt, Alexandra Bebb, Paul Weir, Okkert Havenga, Marisa Vetter, Gokhan, Helena Riffer, Fiona Hartmann, Janina Wiebols, Jana Fach, Marion Bambach

Vedha Sabharwal, Eva Gül, Lara Deyerling Cruz, Aiwen Han,

Agenda / Tagesordnung:

Protokoll des letzten Treffens

Punkte der Schule

- Sustainability of School Trips

AB highlighted the issue of flying by plane to school trip destinations and buying one-off purchases for equipment, e.g. ski equipment. AB suggested that in the December ski meeting the parents could run a “swap shop” where equipment is available. TZ suggested that a plan for this is agreed in time for the autumn meeting of the SusCom. AB and TZ suggested that the choice of destinations could be more accessible by train instead of further afield requiring flights. Brussels and Luxembourg for example travel by train to their ski trips. AB highlighted that the school encourages public transport for trips within Hessen.

- Environmental Stewards Update

Vedha and Eva have recently relaunched the Environmental Stewards and outlined their planned activities for the upcoming weeks. They already have over 10 members.

20.3.25– A green wishes event in the small break

2.4.25 – planting flowers to take home – Earth Hour

10.4.25 – Litter Picking

20.5.25 – World Bee Day to celebrate the arrival of the bees, painting tin can bees for the garden

19-23rd May 2025 - Walk To School Week

18.6.25 Litter picking

TZ asked the Stewards to brainstorm ideas on how to reduce car dependence and promote alternative travel methods to reduce traffic problems at the school.



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Vedha gave feedback on the results of her ESS survey on sustainable cities. 95% of interviewees felt that sustainability is important. Parents committee suggested combining the litter pick with their planned Clean Up Day. The Walk to School Day could be more competitive where classes win points to encourage participation. TZ suggested that Environmental Stewards wear something recognisable eg. A green vest.

PW provided an update on the CAS student plastic bottle recycling project.

- Actions for School Year (Printing Credits, Book Orders, S4 no tablets)

AB reported on the success so far on the above initiatives. Parents highlighted that the printing limit can cause problems in the lower school years. AB wants students to take greater responsibility for keeping their own notes to reduce dependence on printed handouts. Vedha suggested that the tablets themselves could be more durable to reduce the impact of resource mining.

- Umweltschule meeting

AB gave an overview of the progress towards the next Umweltschule application. Students are encouraged to attend the Umweltschule award ceremony.

- Bee Update

AB explained the new landscaping layout of the Tiny Forest beehive site and gave a timeline on when to expect the bees. Their arrival depends on the frost and the availability of the Bee Pedagogue on either 04.04.25, 11.04.25 or 02.05.25. AB asked for feedback on concerns. TZ emphasised that the protocol should make it clear that students respect the bee site and give them space. Gokhan asked about allergies. The parents requested an emergency procedure be put in place in the event of stings or allergic reactions. A kit could be put on site eg. at the Tiny Forest shed and a responsible member of staff on standby.

Open Forest for Schumann Day 09.05.25 to welcome the bees. Visitors register. Vedha volunteered the Environmental Stewards to organise an activity for the day. TZ assured that brezels could be ordered for the day. TZ suggested that a campfire be organised for the Environmental Stewards at the site to make use of its suitability. This will be supervised by parent.

Helena gave feedback on the work done in the primary for European Hours by Mr McLea.



Fiona Hartmann reported on the success of the broken pen collection project. P5 will undertake an upcycling project. A bicycle ornament is currently in the Tiny Forest as part of this. Students are also making objects out of litter.

Ela Gül is developing an app providing students with ideas for activities where they gain point and receive rewards through completing activities e.g. the chance to plant a tree at the Tiny Forest.

TZ praised the accomplishments of the committee and AB will pass on the information to the Umweltschule.

Punkte der Eltern

1. Vorschlag: „Clean-up Day“ auf dem eigenen Schulgelände

AB suggested the last week of the summer term for this. AB proposed the Wednesday or the Thursday. TZ highlighted the need for clean up at the school entrance.

2. Projektwoche

JF discussed the project week but there could be difficulty in finding a suitable week for this. The most appropriate time is following induction week after the summer break. TZ believes a good compromise would be for primary to run the full project but for secondary to select which specific projects to follow so as to fit in best with the curriculum and other scheduled commitments. Gokhan suggested tying it in with IB as a project is a necessary requirement of the IB programme. Gokhan to follow up.

3. Weitere geplante Nachhaltigkeits-Zertifizierungen?

Parents asked if ESRM could apply for Fair Trade or UNESCO status. AB and TZ said that these are desirable but must be balanced with school commitments. PW highlighted that Ackerdemie will fulfil some of these.

4. Verschiedenes:

- a. melomi Lunchpakete
- b. Reduktion von Papier, u. a. durch verstärkte Nutzung von digitalen Geräten
- c. Greenwall – wir bieten gerne erneut Recherche und Konzept an



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Vedha proposed introducing a Mehrwegs box as used in FIS. Vedha to provide TZ with instructions which he will pass on to Mr Arsenic for consideration. TZ reported back on an improvement in the litter situation within the school where less packaging is visible thanks to the ban on students taking Melomi food upstairs.

