

POP Movement - Newsletter June 2019

An article about our efforts to increase awareness amongst year 5 and 6 students about CO₂ emissions due to (unnecessary) car journeys (see newsletter May 2019) gets published in the local press at the beginning of June. We are really happy that the press shares the great feedback we received from the participating students and their teachers.

June marks the erection and commissioning of our smartbench, which is also known as a solarbench. We still have a lot of work to do before we can celebrate with a small launch ceremony at the end of the month. Finally, on 28th June, the day has come and we celebrate with representatives of the company ENNI, the ‚Förderverein‘ (parent association) of the school and the city’s climate protection management – all of whom financially supported us in this quest. While we did win the money to purchase the solar bench at the ‚Klima Challenge Ruhr‘ (climate challenge Ruhr), further costs had to be covered for the installation and the running costs of the bench (see newsletter May 2019). The organiser ‚Ruhrverband‘ sends a media agency employee to the launch, as they want to capture our project idea and implementation. Some of our POP Movement members are interviewed during the course of the day, and the mayor, school management, the school’s janitorial team and representatives from neighbouring schools take part in the celebrations. It matters to us greatly that the bench will be used by all – and looked after – including students from neighbouring schools and the many people who use the school grounds for various sports during the evening. This is one of the things Valentina talks about in her thank-you speech and we are pleased to see that many teachers and students who aren’t part of the POP Movement team have followed our invitation. Approx. 70 people marvel at the chic seat and stay after the official launch in order to network. The bench starts working straightaway by generating solar energy, which is now charging mobile phones, amongst other things, via USB and/or the wireless charging area. Unfortunately the amount of energy generated through the sun, the current charge of the bank, as well as the number of devices that have been charged with it, can only be accessed via a password-protected link on the manufacturer’s page. However, we copy the available data at regular intervals and display them both in our display case within the school as well as on our website (www.pop-movement.de, click: „aktuelle Leistungsdaten der smartbench“).

The fine dust sensor we installed last month (see newsletter May 2019) reliably measures the fine dust concentration outside of our school building every two minutes. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, we imagine that the chaotic traffic situation between 7:30 am and 8am (the start of the school day) will not only be noticeable within the data, but may well exceed the recommended limits. However, we are not prepared to comment until we have collected and evaluated the data over a longer period of time (currently only five weeks). We regularly update the data on our website www.pop-movement.de (→ Aktuelle Projekte → Feinstaubsensoren).

Also this month, Herr Forsthövel meets with Jacques Wienicke, a former pupil of the Julius-Stursberg-Gymnasium (Julius-Stursberg highschool), who together with some of his friends, has previously successfully organised a couple of indoor music festivals. The organisational team has set themselves the target to organise a carbon-neutral outdoor music festival in the City of Neukirchen-Vluyn in 2020. Herr Forsthövel is able to give Jacques a few contacts, ideas and tips, and they agree to stay in touch.

A. Forsthövel

- „So viel CO₂ kostet jede Autofahrt zur Schule.“ *Rheinische Post*, 05/06/19. Online at https://rp-online.de/nrw/staedte/neukirchen-vluyn/klimaschutz-in-neukirchen-vluyn-soviel-co2-kostet-jede-autofahrt-zur-schule_aid-39252533
- „Neukirchen-Vluyner Gymnasiasten wiegen CO₂ aus.“ *Neue Rhein Zeitung*, 08/06/19. Online at <https://www.nrz.de/staedte/moers-und-umland/neukirchen-vluyner-gymnasiasten-wiegen-co2-aus-id225981963.html>
- „Eine Sitzbank voller Energie.“ *Rheinische Post*, 29/06/19. https://rp-online.de/nrw/staedte/neukirchen-vluyn/klimaschutz-am-julius-stursberg-gymnasium-in-neukirchen-vluyn-die-lade-bank_aid-39714711
- „Sonnenschein fürs Telefon.“ *Neue Rhein Zeitung*, 29/06/19. Online at <https://www.nrz.de/staedte/moers-und-umland/am-schulzentrum-neukirchen-vluyn-steht-jetzt-eine-smartbench-id226323789.html>

Launch of the smartbench



Valentina thanks her fellow players, the sponsors and supporters.



From now on, mobile phones can be charged in an environmentally friendly way.