

POP Movement – Newsletter May 2018

The recycled copying paper’s trial phase at our school’s administrative wing went positively. We have been given the green light for our plan for teachers to use recycled paper products for their copies exclusively. From the many offered paper products we made the conscious decision for the company Steinbeis’ product Trendwhite (<https://www.stp.de/en/office-paper/steinbeis-trendwhite/>) because it is certified with the German seal of approval *Blauer Engel* and the EU’s *Ecolabel* seal of approval (see previous link). Naturally, our plan has generated some discussion at the school over the last weeks. We have informed the school community by showing the transition’s advantages i.a. in the copying room and in the display in our recreation hall because they are the prime example for a sustainable change, as all three dimensions of sustainability are positively taken into consideration.



Source: City Neukirchen-Vluyn

The paper transition’s environmental dimension will be obvious with following table, which values speak for themselves:

Savings due to the change from fresh fibre paper to recycled paper

	CO ₂	Wood	Water
per:			
sheet	3.2 g	15 g	0.26 l
ream (500 sheets)	1.6 kg	7.5 kg	130 l
annual amount (2017) (820.000 sheets)	2.6 t	12.3 t	213,200 l
savings of	53 %	100 %	87 %

Data basis: <https://www.stp.de/en/office-paper/steinbeis-trendwhite/>

Through the change alone are our annual CO₂ emissions lowered by 2.6 tons. We are improving from an economic viewpoint as well. The same type of paper has been ordered from the same distributor for years. Through an online platform, which shows the

inventories of multiple wholesalers, we are able to retrieve different order quantities for varying prices. Result: We are now even saving some money, too.

The social dimension considers first of all the people, which are directly “affected” by a sustainable measure. Naturally we are very glad, that we are acting better ecologically and economically. Though I think, that due to this change, which is visible for every single student on a daily basis, the topic of sustainability itself has come into the school community’s focus more strongly again. And now that a certain sum of money is being saved, which is now directly spent for the school community and not for buying consumables, everyone profits.

Besides, we have converted the savings for CO₂, wood and water to get a clearer view: The saved 2.6 t CO₂ equal the weight of 348 boxes of milk. 12.3 t wood are won from 8 spruce trees (height of 25 m and 40 cm in diameter). The 213,200 l water are equal to a water level of 75 cm in our teacher’s room. The pictures are visual for every teacher copying as of now.

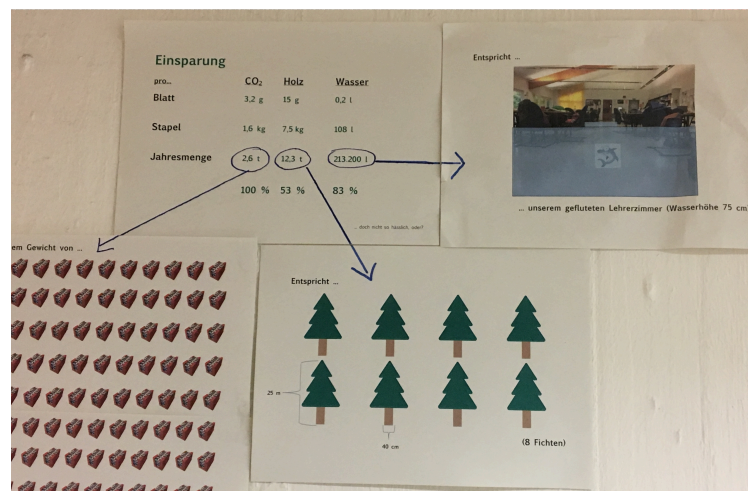
A. Forsthövel



The savings are clearly visible in the copying room.



Comparison of values for fresh fibre and recycled paper.



Visual presentation of the abstract values.