

**ECONOMY**   
FOR THE  
COMMON GOOD

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# DOING BUSINESS FOR THE COMMON GOOD

## A QUESTION OF CREDIBILITY

February 2024



# Orientation towards the common good protects our common home





**This  
economy  
kills**

**Pope Franziskus:**

**Today, we must say 'no to an economy of exclusion and income disparity'. This economy kills.**

(Evangelii gaudium, November 2013, No. 53)





Bring  
forward,  
admonish,  
mediate

## Evangelical Church in Germany:

"For a sustainable development that takes our entire society with it, the churches want to be admonitions, mediators and driving forces."

Borrowed is the star on which we live. The 2030 Agenda as a challenge for the churches, p. 31



If 25% of all journeys are less than 2 km, the goal of "every second journey being self-active" is not that difficult to achieve





The Economy for the Common Good (ECG) is a movement of people of different religions and worldviews.

The humanistic values of the ECG coincide with basic Christian convictions.

More and more ecclesiastical institutions are concerned with the economy for the common good.



What?

# The Economy for the Common Good describes an alternative economic order

How?



It sees itself as a **liberal and ethical market economy**



in which **the pursuit of profit is replaced**



by the **pursuit of the common good and competition by cooperation**



Success is measured on the basis of the **Common Good Balance Sheet**



and the National Economy is measured on the **basis of the Common Good Product**

Why?



The aim is to reconcile the laws of the market economy with the fundamental values of democratic societies and to enable a good life for all.

# Human dignity



# And God created man in His own image

Genesis 1:27

## ECG examples of human dignity:

- Products and services serve the "good life for all"
- Decent workplaces, for example with regard to health care, diversity and equal opportunities
- Respectful communication with customers



# Solidarity



**Jesus:** Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

Matthew 25:40

### **ECG examples of solidarity:**

- Fair business relationships with suppliers
- Cooperation with other companies Taxes, social security contributions and voluntary contributions to strengthen the community
- Resources, power, opportunities and duties are distributed appropriately

# Sustainability



**And the Lord God took man and put him in the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.**

Genesis 2:15

### ECG examples of sustainability

- Reduction of all ecological damage
- Employees are encouraged in their ecological behavior
- Investments and investments serve sustainability

# Democracy and Transparency



**What is the man that you remember him? You have made him a little lower than God, you have crowned him with honor and glory.**

Psalm 9:5-6

### ECG examples of democracy and transparency

- All stakeholders participate in the decisions that affect them.
- You will be informed accurately and sufficiently.
- Customers can co-develop products and services.

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**SOLIDARITY &  
SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**TRANSPARENCY &  
CO-DETERMINATION**

**HUMAN DIGNITY**

**ECG VALUES**

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY**



A dandelion seed head on a stem, held by a hand, against a soft, colorful sunset sky. The sky transitions from a pale blue at the top to a warm orange and pink near the horizon. The dandelion is in the center, with its seeds clearly visible. A hand is visible at the bottom, holding the stem.

What is Economy of the common good?



# ECG worldwide

180+  
Local  
chapters

35+  
ECG  
associations

60+  
active  
municipaliti  
es and cities

5.000+  
active  
members

200+  
committed  
universities

11.000+  
supporters

835+  
balanced  
companies



The Common Good Balance Sheet is a **sustainability Report**. It shows whether an organization serves the **common good**.

The organization checks in every way how **ecological, social and fair** it is.

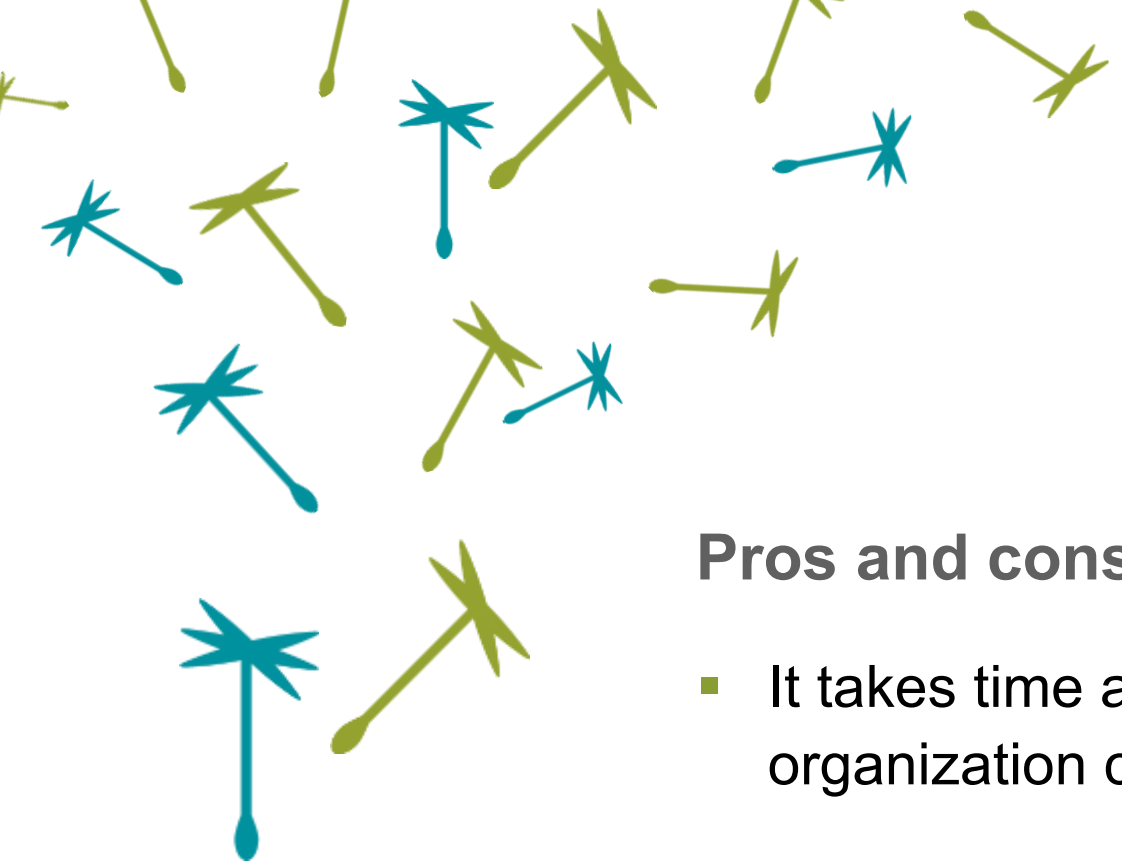
The external audit and the publication on the Internet makes them **verifiable**.

## What is a Common Good Balance Sheet?

# Common Good Matrix and Common Good Balance Sheet

Values:	Human Dignity	Solidarity and Social Justice	Environmental Sustainability	Transparency + CO-determination
Stakeholders				
Suppliers				
Financial service		<b>20 topics max. 1000 points,</b> <b>negative points up to -3600 points</b>		
Employees				
Customers				
Social Environment				





## Pros and cons of the ECG balance sheet

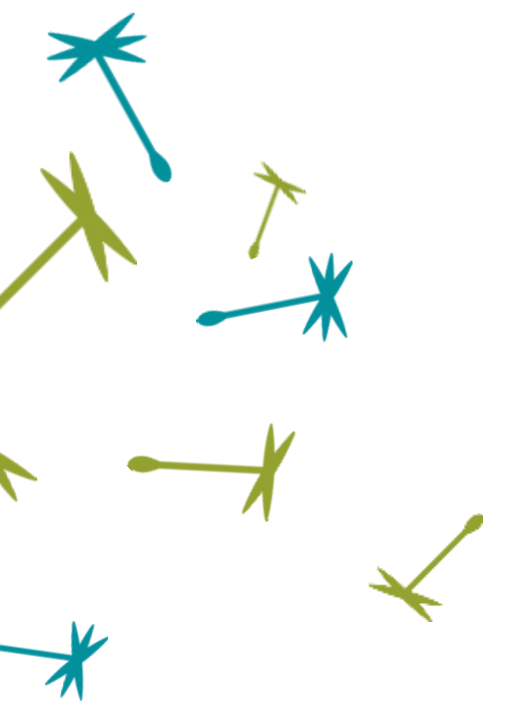
- It takes time and money to create. But this is how an organization can check whether it lives up to its values.
- It is particularly effective when everyone participates. But everyone involved experiences that they are part of something meaningful.
- The benefits of implementation will only be felt later. However, small improvements can be implemented quickly and explained by the ECG balance sheet.



**Christian-Jensen-Kolleg  
with ECG balance**

**“A place where questions of social and ecclesiastical transformation are the order of the day and lived“**





## Husumer Horizonte with ECG balance


“We took up the challenge of the ECG balance sheet and it was worth it. Many feel that they are on the right side, that they are part of something bigger, and that they are involved in sustainability and human dignity...”

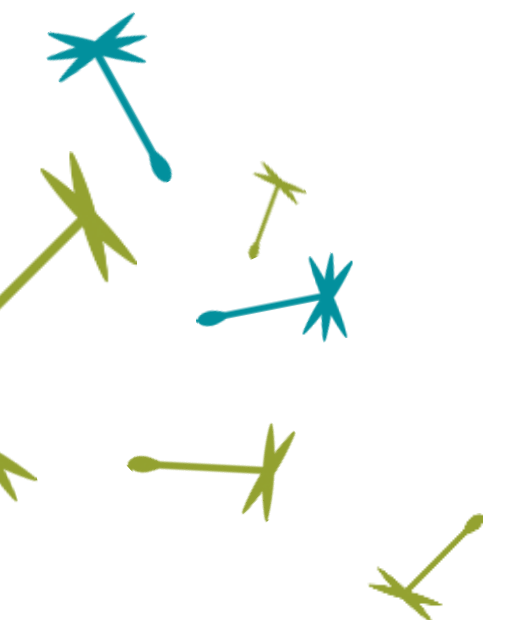
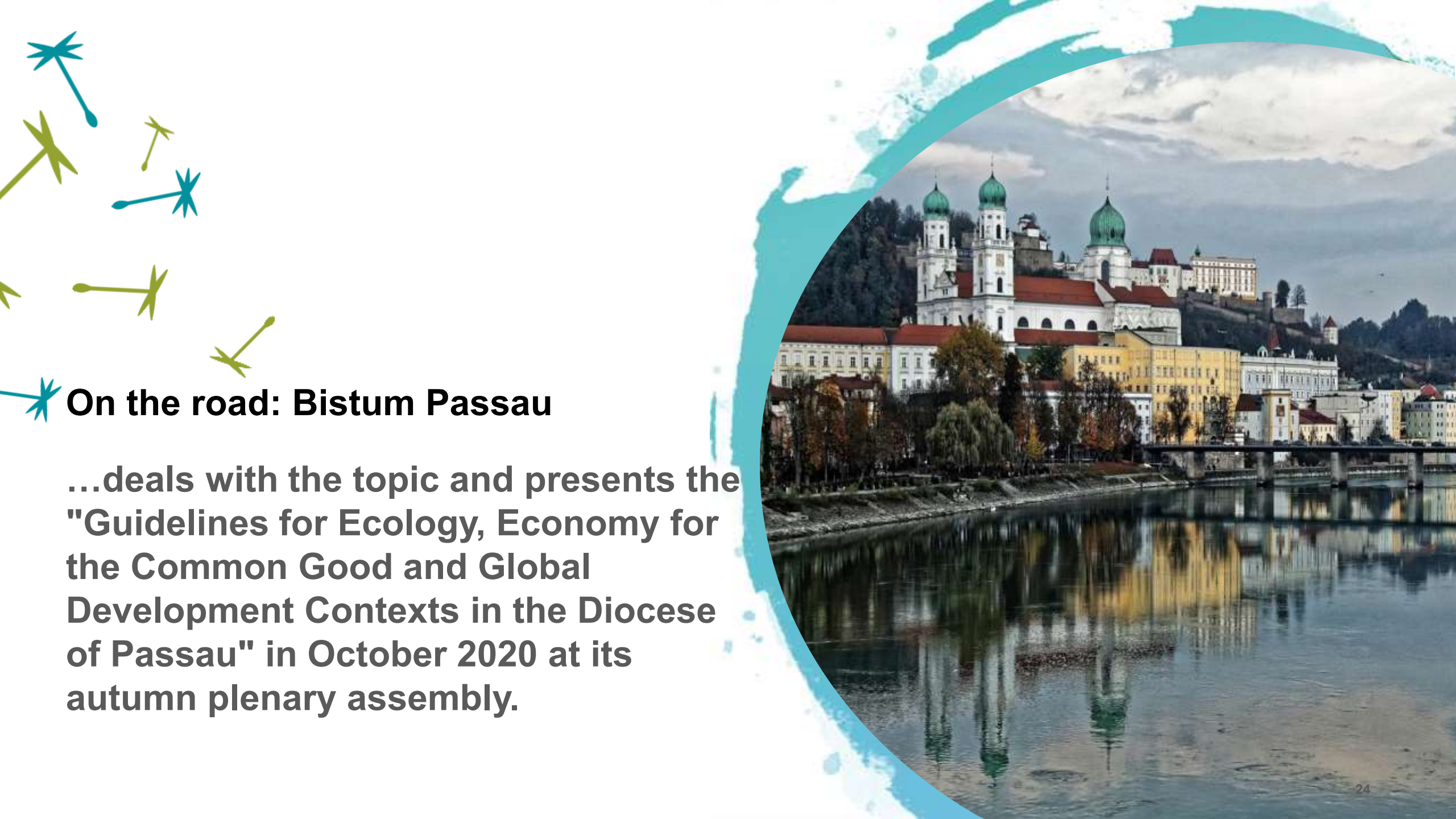




## Herzogsägmühle with ECG balance

**“The Economy for the Common Good credibly translates Christian culture into ethical action and leads to better circumstances and more justice through swarm intelligence.”**





**On the road: Bistum Passau**

**...deals with the topic and presents the "Guidelines for Ecology, Economy for the Common Good and Global Development Contexts in the Diocese of Passau" in October 2020 at its autumn plenary assembly.**





→ **ECG at „Bildungswerk der KAB“**

The Catholic Workers' Movement of the Diocese of Aachen set up a working group "ECG and Church" at the beginning of 2022. A first day of study with five institutions (three municipalities and two associations) took place.

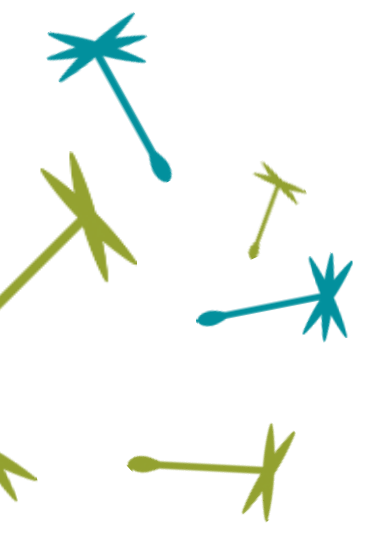
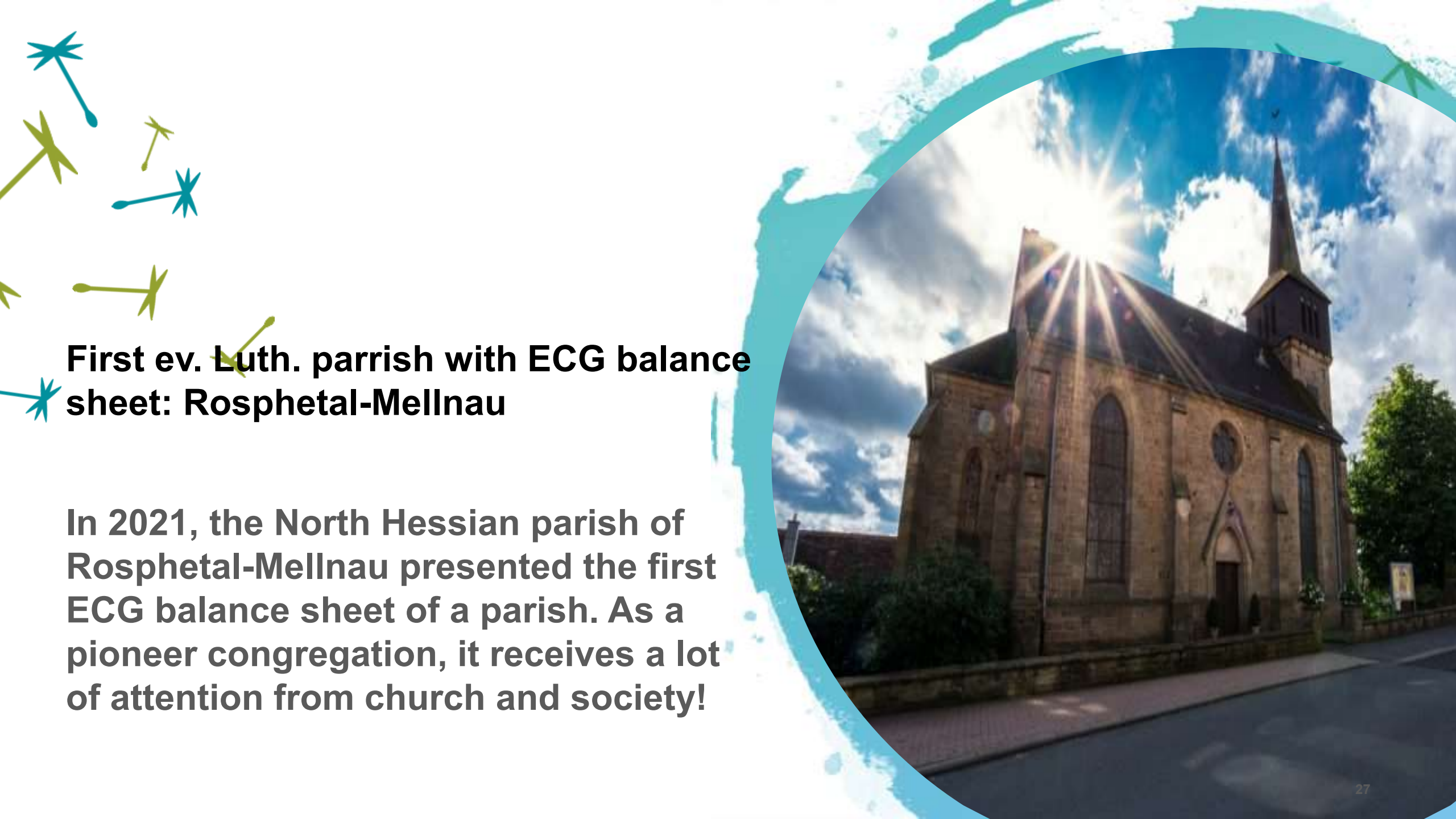




**Diakonic association Schweicheln with ECG balance**

Seven individual institutions have already received ECG balance sheet. They see their 2019/20 project Economy for the Common Good as an expression of their responsibility for sustainable action in all areas.





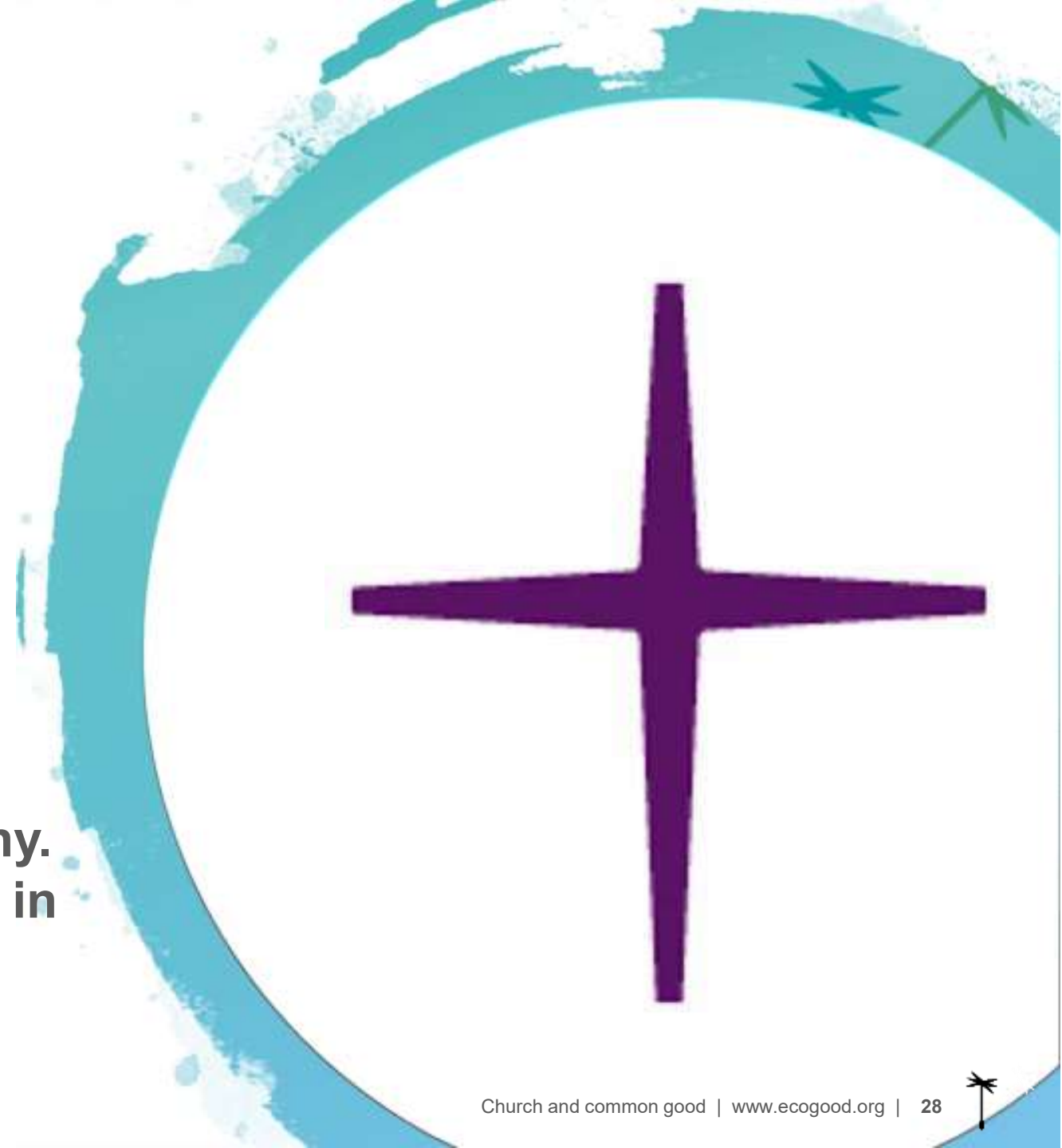
**First ev. Luth. parrish with ECG balance sheet: Rospetal-Mellnau**

**In 2021, the North Hessian parish of Rospetal-Mellnau presented the first ECG balance sheet of a parish. As a pioneer congregation, it receives a lot of attention from church and society!**

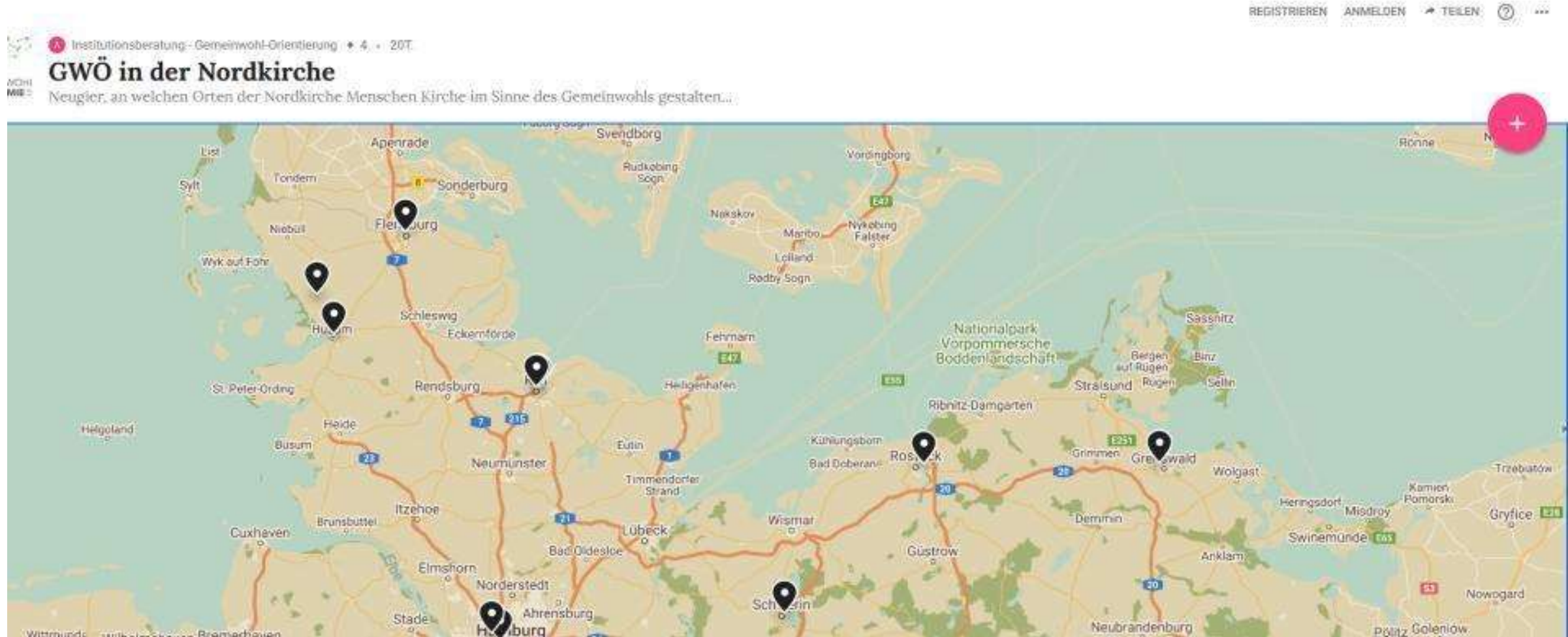


## On the road: Nordkirche

A separate working group ECG is committed to supporting the socio-ecological transformation of the ev. Lutheran church of Northern Germany. Four parishes will do ECG balancing in 2024. More parishes are planning.



# ECG Map of the Nordkirche



Screenshots of the padlet of Nordkirche



**And more are being added all the time...**

St Gereon  
BruderhausDiakonie  
St Virgil, Kloster Kirchberg  
Tagungshaus Wildbad  
Vinzenz Service

Katholisches Bildungswerk Traunstein

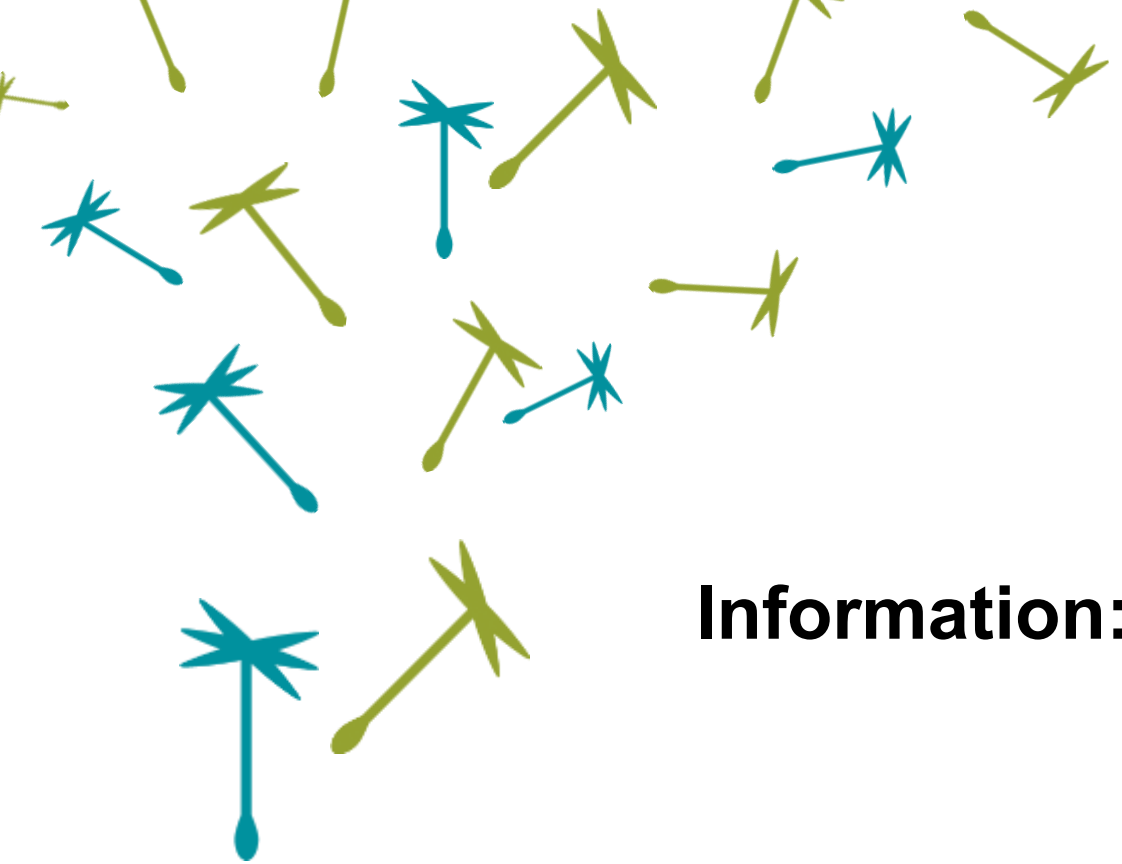
Sign of Hope Konstanz

Jugendhilfe Johannesstifts  
Samariterstiftung Nürtingen

Elia Gemeinde, MUTPOL Diakonische Jugendhilfe  
Bildunghaus Kloster Neustift

**Nell-Breuning-Haus in Herzogenrath**





## **First steps to join us**

**Information: [ecogood.org](http://ecogood.org)**

**contact: [religion@ecogood.org](mailto:religion@ecogood.org)**

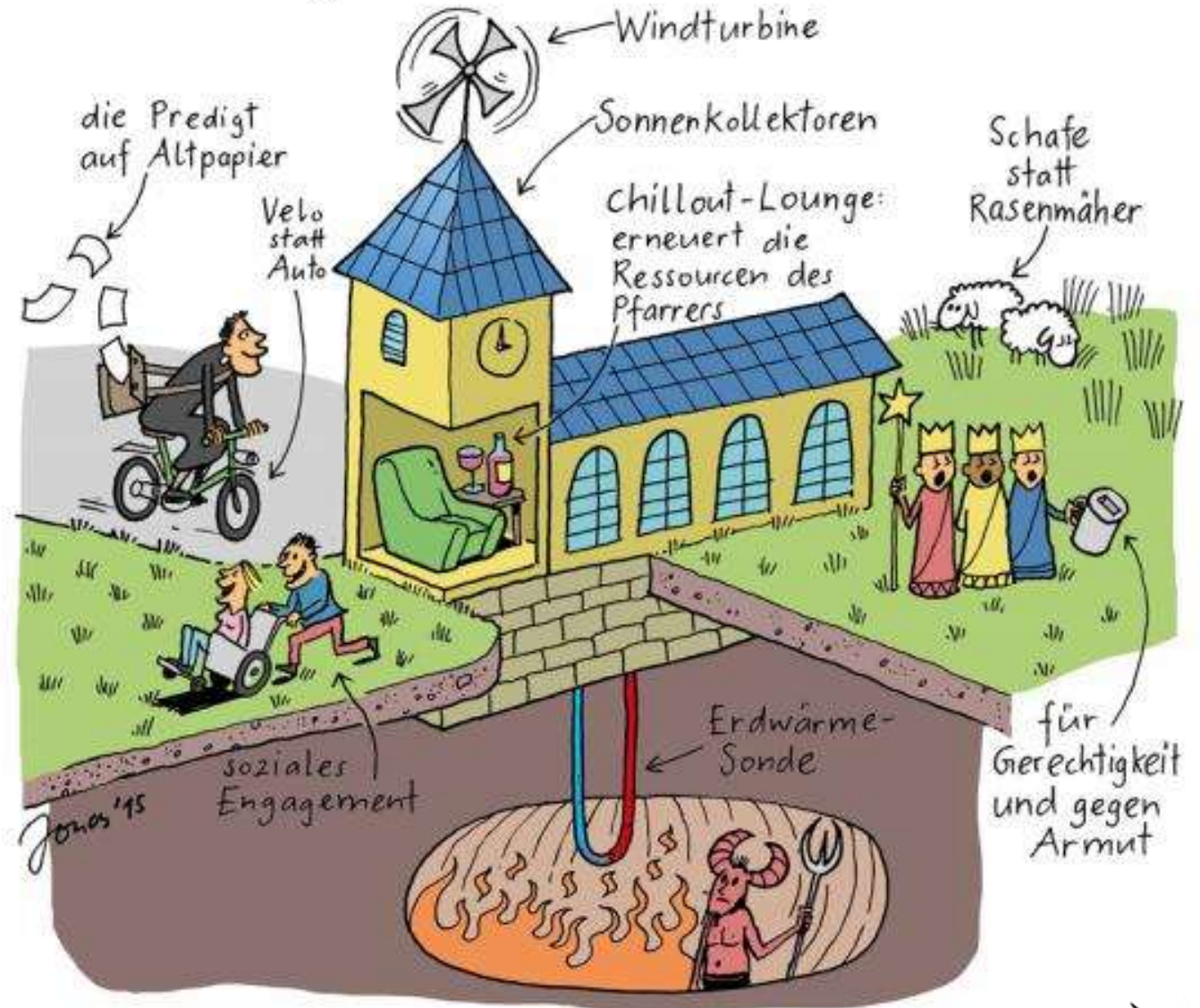


## A sustainable Church

With wind turbine, sermon on recycling paper, chill out lounge, bicycle instead of car, social engagement, geothermal heat, sheep instead of lawn mower, etc.

# Let's get started!

## Die nachhaltige Kirche:





# THANK YOU VERY MUCH

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The presentation is prepared by the Hub „Faith Organisations“ and the working Group „Churches and Church Organisation.  
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