



DOING BUSINESS FOR THE COMMON GOOD A QUESTION OF CREDIBILITY

JULY 2025



Orientation towards the common good protects our common home







Pope Franziskus:

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

(Evangelii gaudium, November 2013, No. 53)





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









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.

The Economy for the Common Good describes an alternative economic order





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**



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 democray 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.

SOLIDARITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE





TRANSPARENCY & CO-DETERMINATION

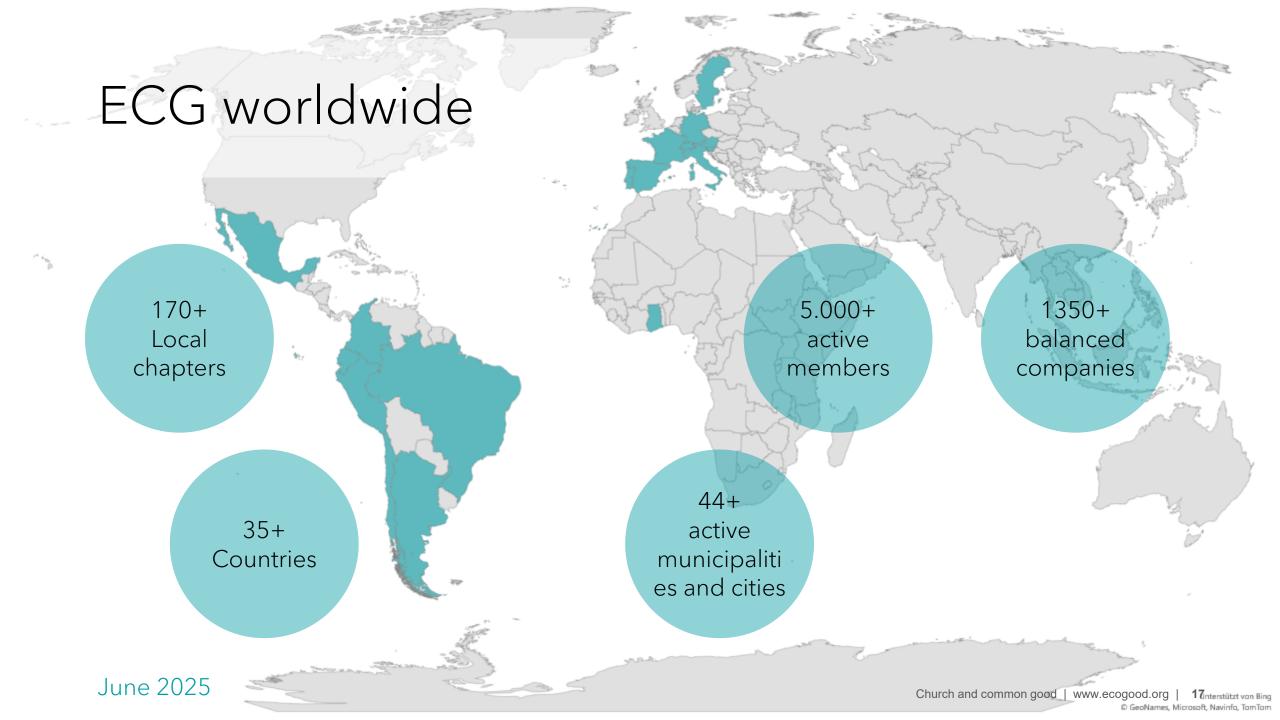
HUMAN DIGNITY

ECG VALUES

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



What is Economy of the common good?

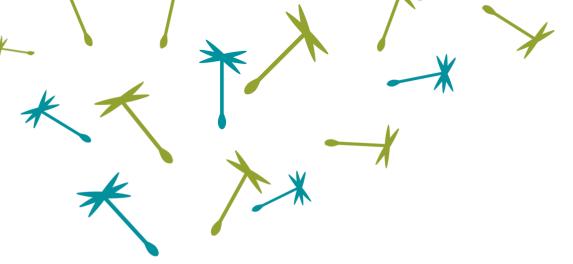




What is a Common Good Balance Sheet?

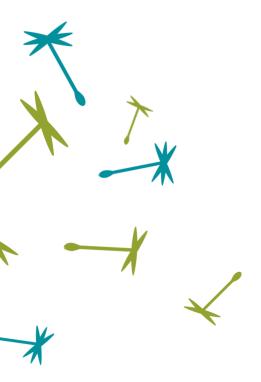
Common Good Matrix and Common Good Balance Sheet

Values:	Human Dignity	Solidarity and Social Justice	Environmental Sustainability	Transparency +		
Stakeholders				co- determination		
Suppliers						
Financial service	20 topics max. 1000 points, negative points up to -3600 points					
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"

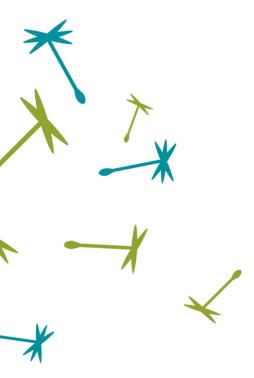




Husumer Horizonte with ECG balance

"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."

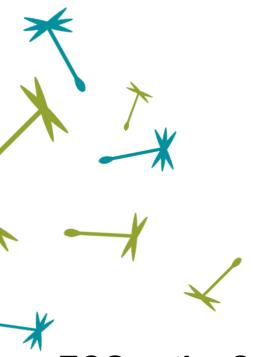




Diakonic association Schweicheln with ECG balance

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.

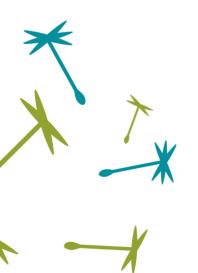




ECG activ: Caritasverbände

The ECG and economic efficiency complement each other here. A number of Caritas organisations have drawn up ECG balance sheets, e.g. PaderbornRuhr Mitte, Cologne, Arnsberg-Sundern, Emmendingen



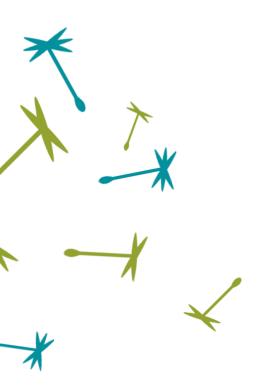


First ev. Luth. parrish with ECG balance

≭sheet: Rosphetal-Mellnau

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

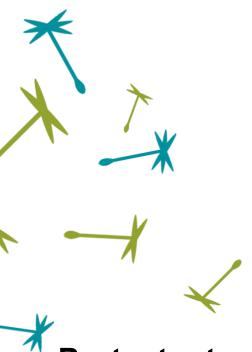




First Catholic parish with an ECG balance sheet

The parish has a pioneering role in the archdiocese and worldwide as the first Catholic parish (2024) to be honoured.

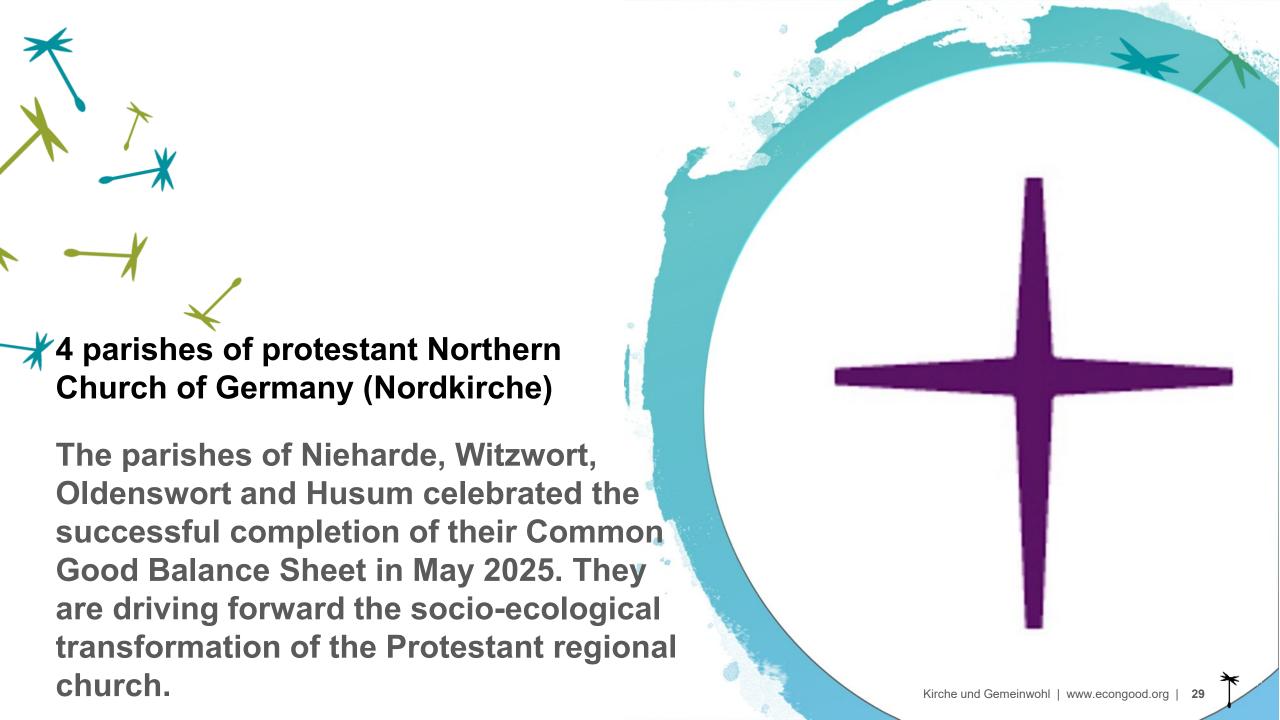




Protestant parishes Frankfurt Griesheim and Nied

In order to systematically record their scope for action, they orientated themselves on the Economy for the Common Good and drew up a Common Good Balance Sheet in 2023.





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Film on the ECG process of the northern church parishes



WERWENNNICHTWIR Trailer



Which balancing form for church parishes

	ECG Focus	Peer-Evaluation	Reduced Balance	Full scale
Type of periols	(municipalties)	report parishes	report parishes	balance
Type of parish				
Small parish, many volunteers	→	» <u>å</u> ÷		no
Medium parish, up to 20 employees		>□←	<u>→</u>	
Larger parish with up to 100 full-time employees		> <u>□</u>	→	
Large or particularly innovative parish		→ 0←	* <u>i</u> *	→
Target / motivation				
Get to know ECG	✓			
Organisational development		✓	✓	✓
Profiling of the parish		✓	✓	✓
Ecology and social issues in a merger process	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sustainability reporting		✓	✓	✓

Large lighthouse: recommendations of Hub Faith Organisations

Small lighthouse: possible alternatives





And more are being added all the time...

St Gereon BruderhausDiakonie St Virgil,Kloster Kirchberg Tagungshaus Wildbad

Caritas Paderborn & Köln Vinzenz Service Katholisches Bildungswerk Traunstein

Theologische Hochschule Reutlingen Sign of Hope Konstanz Jugendhilfe Johannesstifts Samariterstiftung Nürtingen

> Elia Gemeinde, MUTPOL Diakonische Jugendhilfe Bildungshaus Kloster Neustift

> > **Nell-Breuning-Haus in Herzogenrath**





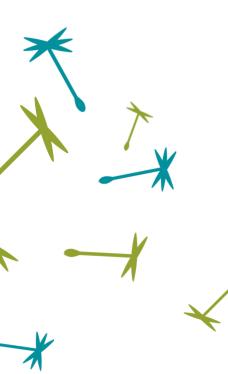
Information (news, events, material):

https://germany.econgood.org/ak-glaubensgemeinschaft/

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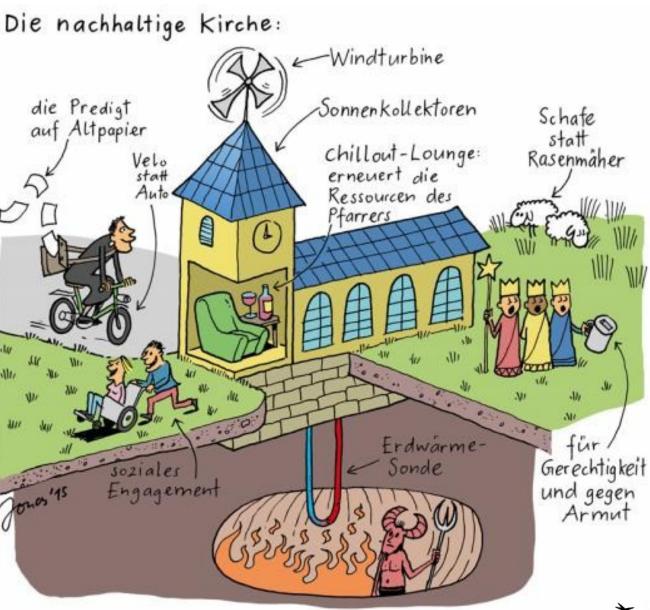




A sustainable Church

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!





THANK YOU VERY MUCH

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The presentation was initially prepared by the Hub Faith Organisations and the working Group "Churches and Church Organisation.

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