

DOING BUSINESS FOR THE COMMON GOOD

A QUESTION OF CREDIBILITY

JANUARY 2026

Orientation towards the common good protects our common home



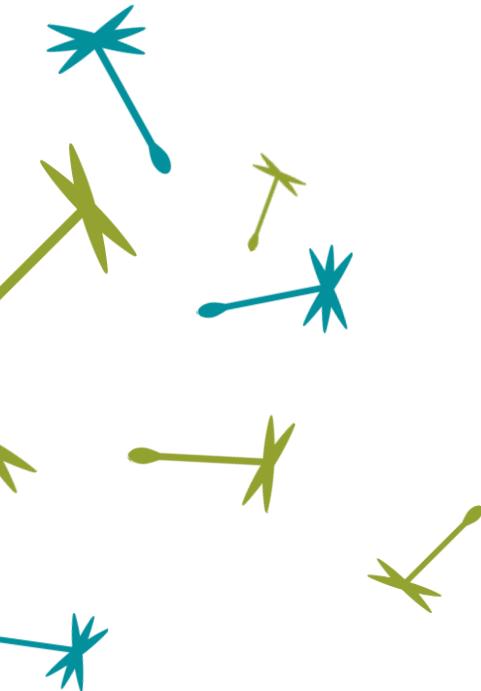


Pope Francis:

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





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

- € 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**



- 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.



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**

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 8:5-6

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.

ECONOMY
FOR THE
COMMON GOOD

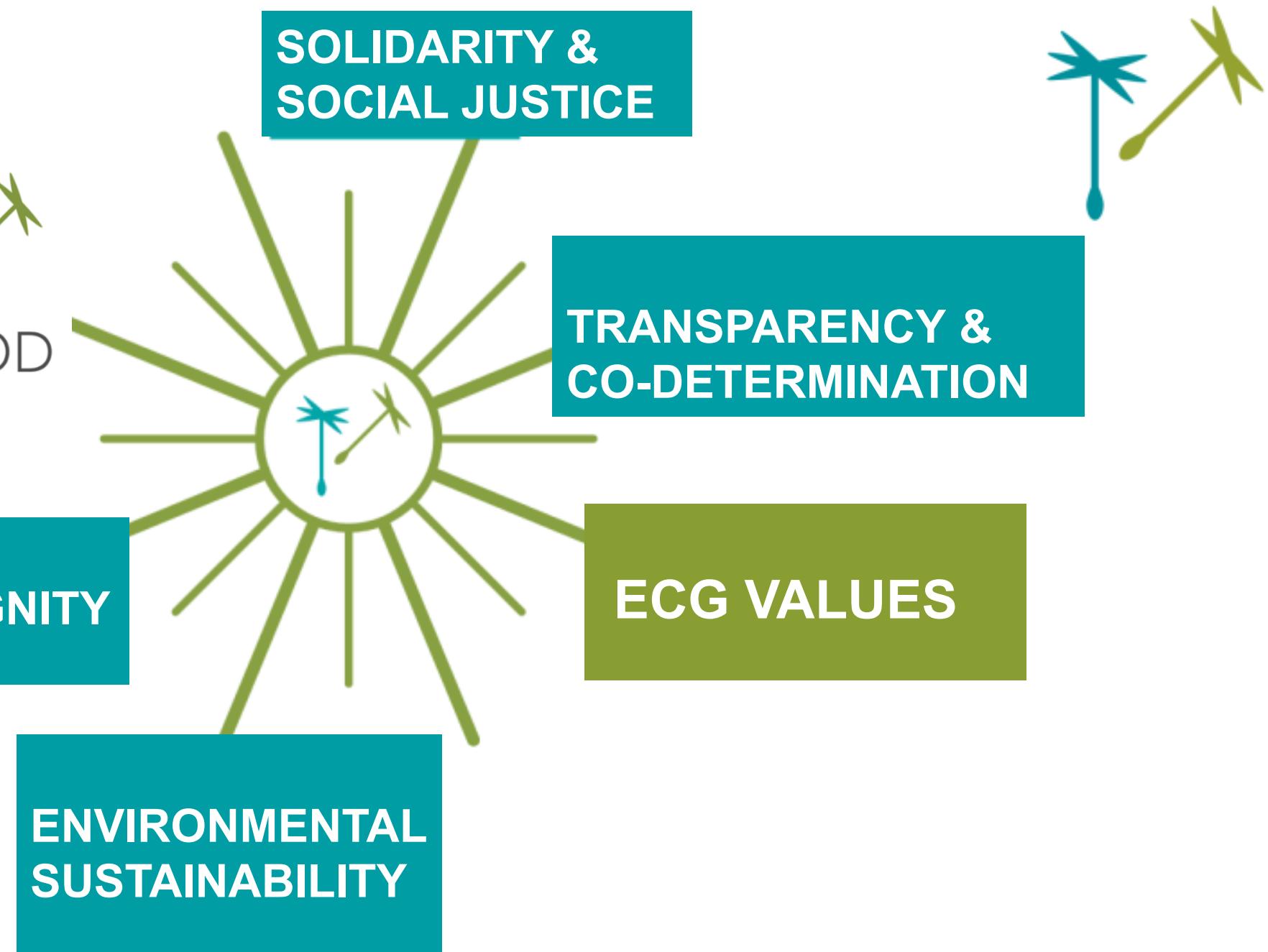
**SOLIDARITY &
SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**TRANSPARENCY &
CO-DETERMINATION**

HUMAN DIGNITY

ECG VALUES

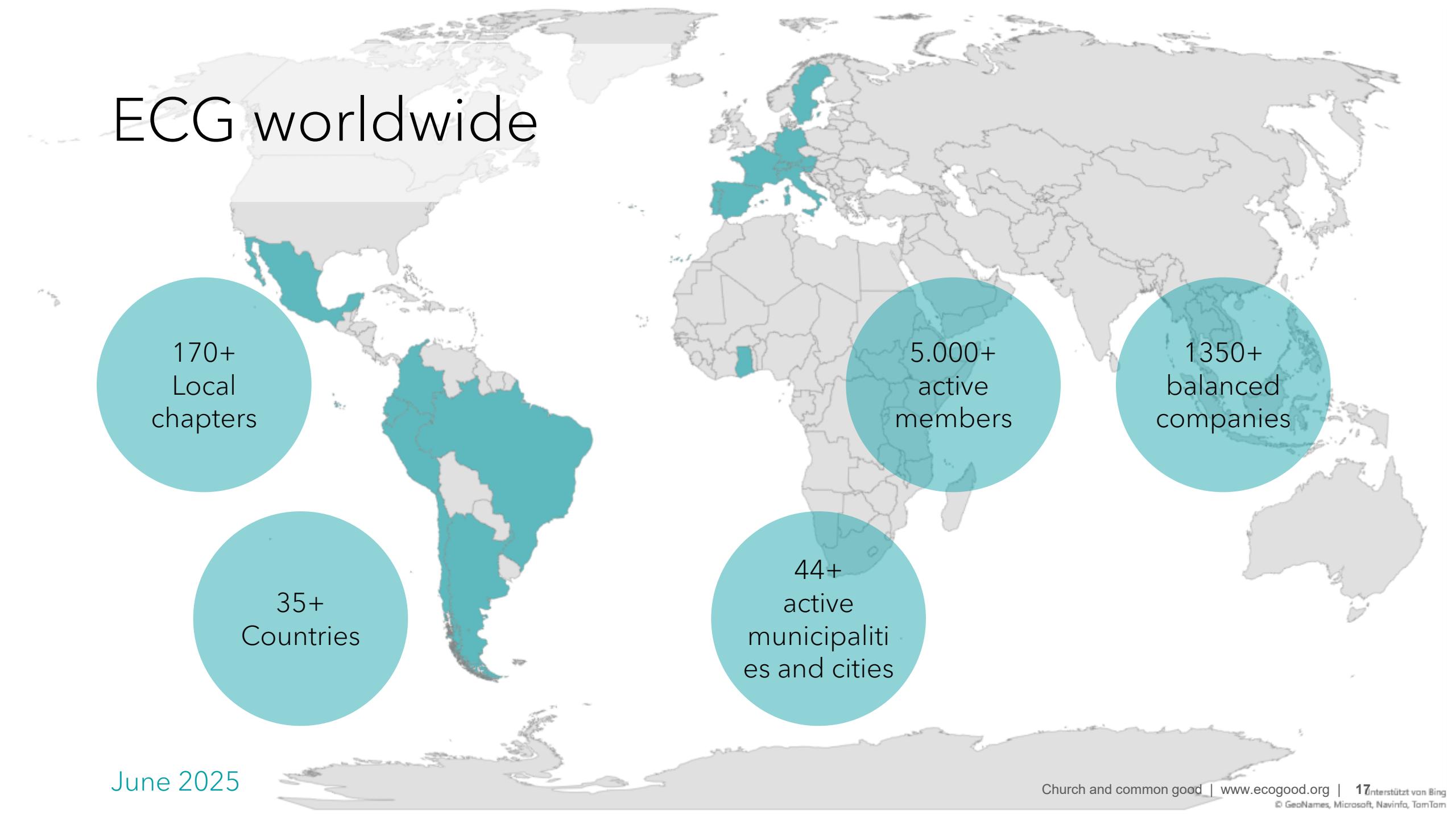
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY**





What is Economy of the common good?

ECG worldwide



A world map with teal-colored circles overlaid on specific regions. The circles are located in North America (Mexico and the US), South America (Brazil and Argentina), Europe (various countries including France, Spain, Italy, and the UK), and Asia (various countries including India and China). The size of the circles varies, representing the magnitude of ECG's presence in that region.

170+
Local
chapters

35+
Countries

44+
active
municipaliti-
es and cities

5.000+
active
members

1350+
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**.

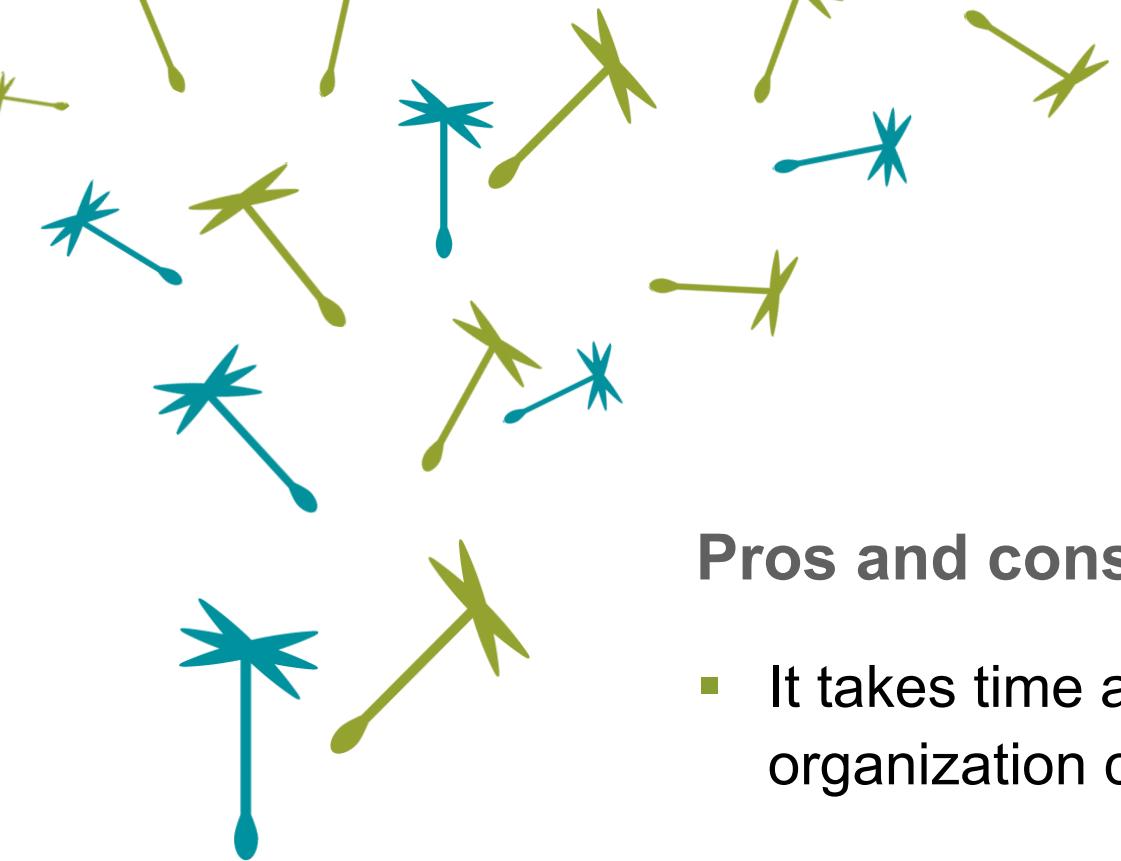
What is a Common Good Balance Sheet?

Common Good Matrix and Common Good Balance Sheet

Values:	Human Dignity	Solidarity and Social Justice	Environmental Sustainability	Transparency + co-determination
Stakeholders				
Suppliers				
Financial service				
Employees				
Customers				
Social Environment				

20 topics max. 1000 points,
negative points up to -3600 points





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

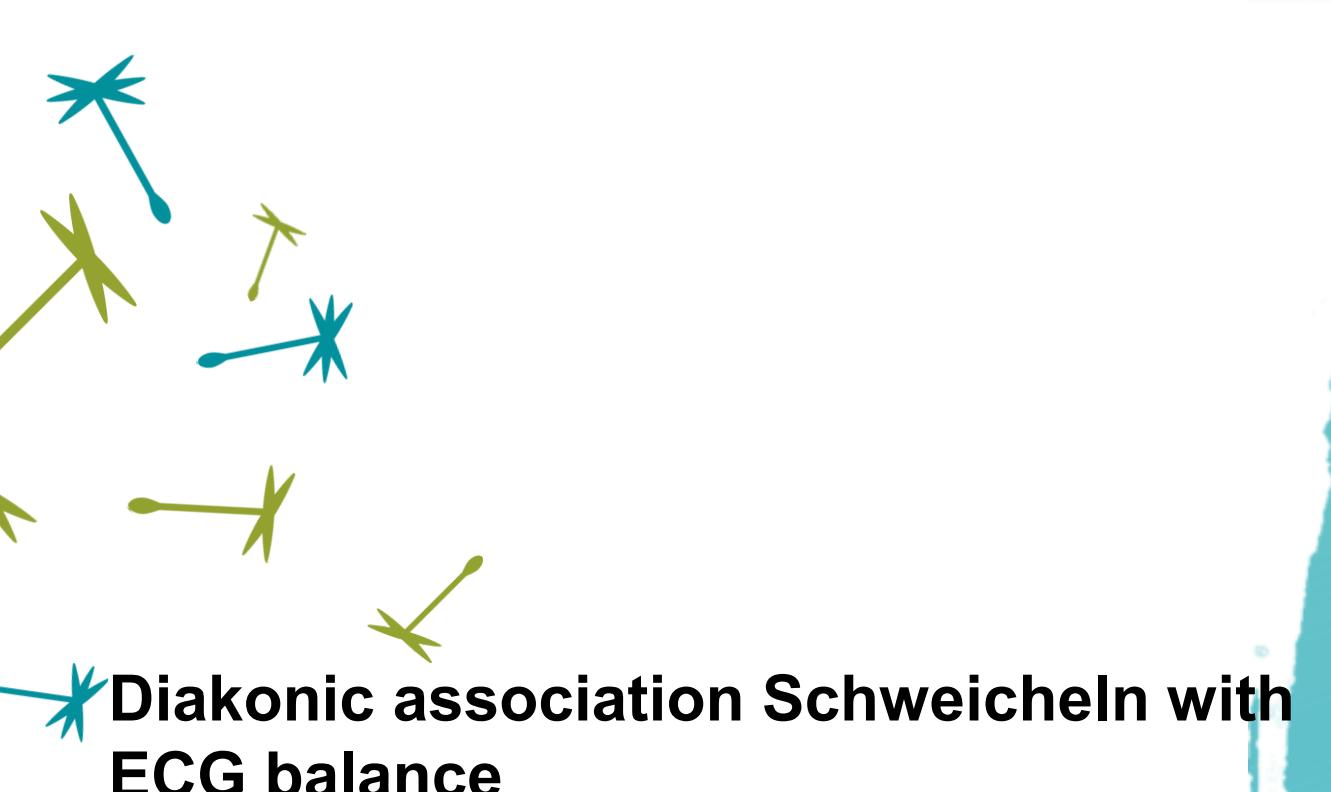
“We took up the challenge of the ECG balance sheet and it was worth it. Many feel that they are on the right side, that they are part of something bigger, and that they are involved in sustainability and human dignity...“





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 Lutheran parish 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 received a lot of attention from church and society!





First Catholic parish with an ECG balance sheet

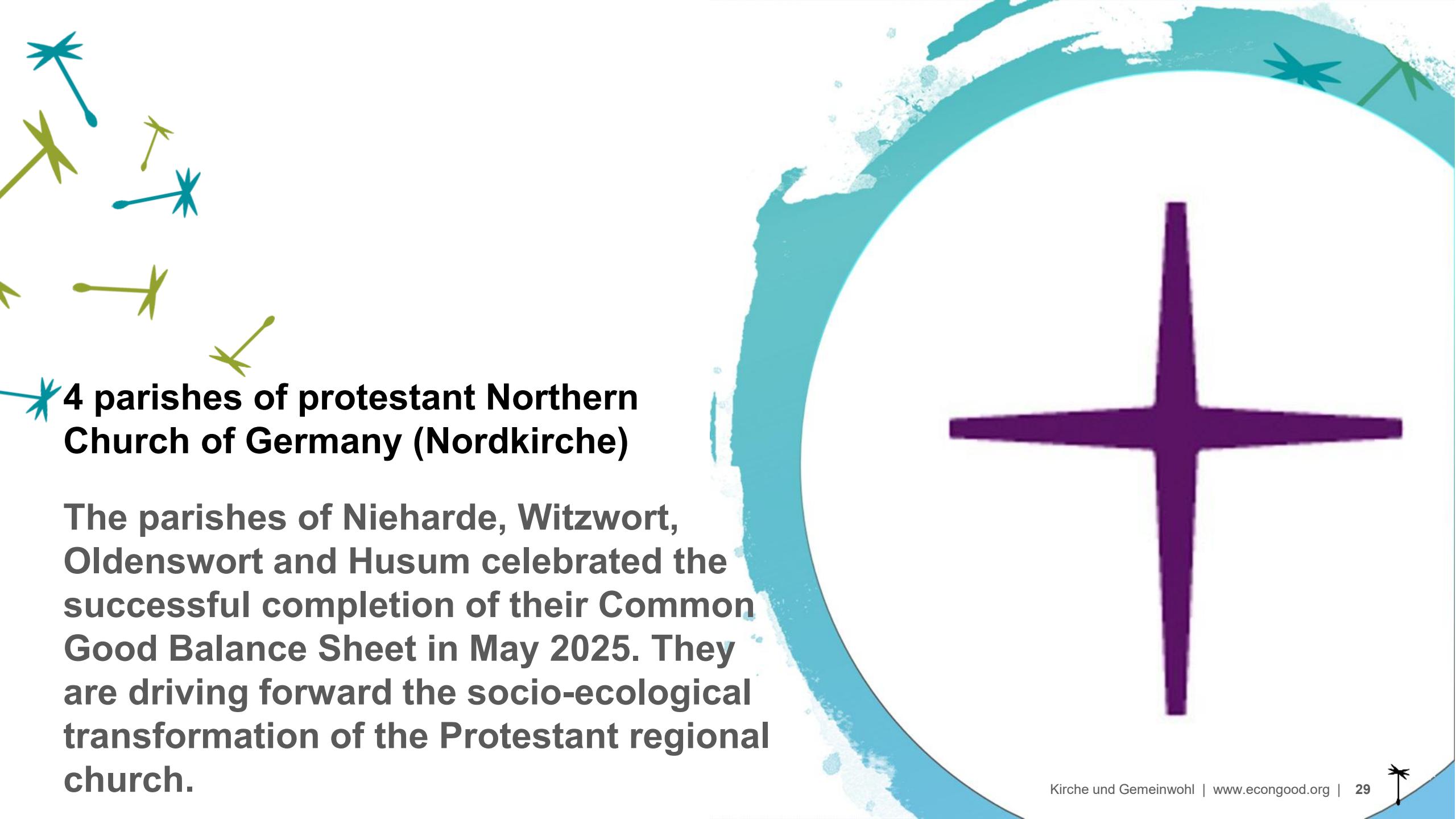
The parish has a pioneering role in the archdiocese and worldwide as the first Catholic parish (2024) to be honoured.



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.





4 parishes of protestant Northern Church of Germany (Nordkirche)

The parishes of Nieharde, Witzwort, Oldenswort and Husum celebrated the successful completion of their Common Good Balance Sheet in May 2025. They are driving forward the socio-ecological transformation of the Protestant regional church.

Film on the ECG process of the northern church parishes



WERWENNNICHTWIR Trailer



Which balancing form for church parishes

	ECG Focus	Peer-Evaluation report parishes	Reduced Balance report parishes	Full scale balance
Type of parish				
Small parish				no
Medium parish, up to 20 employees				
Larger parish with up to 100 full-time employees				
Large or particularly innovative parish				
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

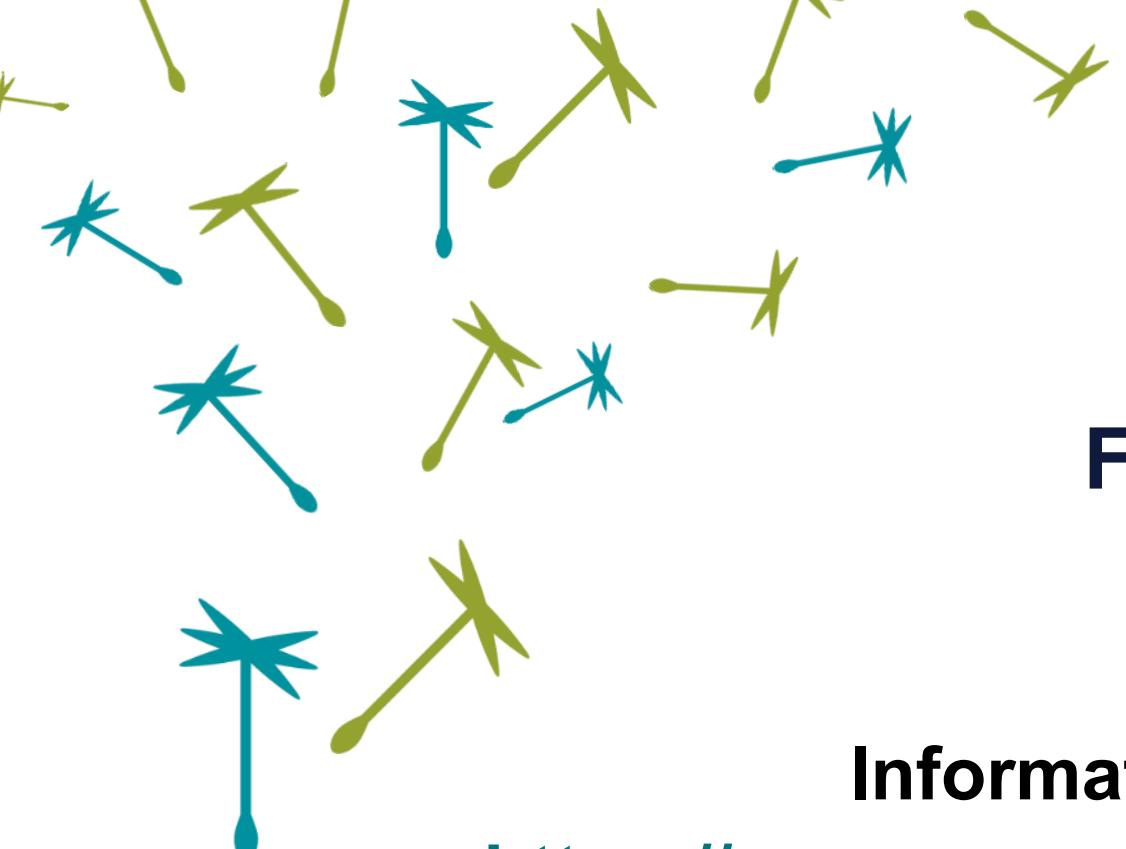
Theologische Hochschule Reutlingen Sign of Hope Konstanz

Jugendhilfe Johannesstifts
Samariterstiftung Nürtingen

Elia Gemeinde,MUTPOL Diakonische Jugendhilfe
Bildungshaus Kloster Neustift

Nell-Breuning-Haus in Herzogenrath





First steps to join us

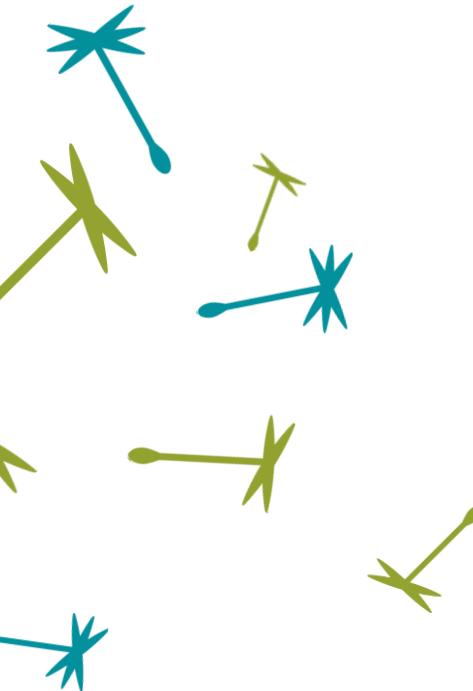
Information (news, events, material):

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

contact:

religion@econgood.org



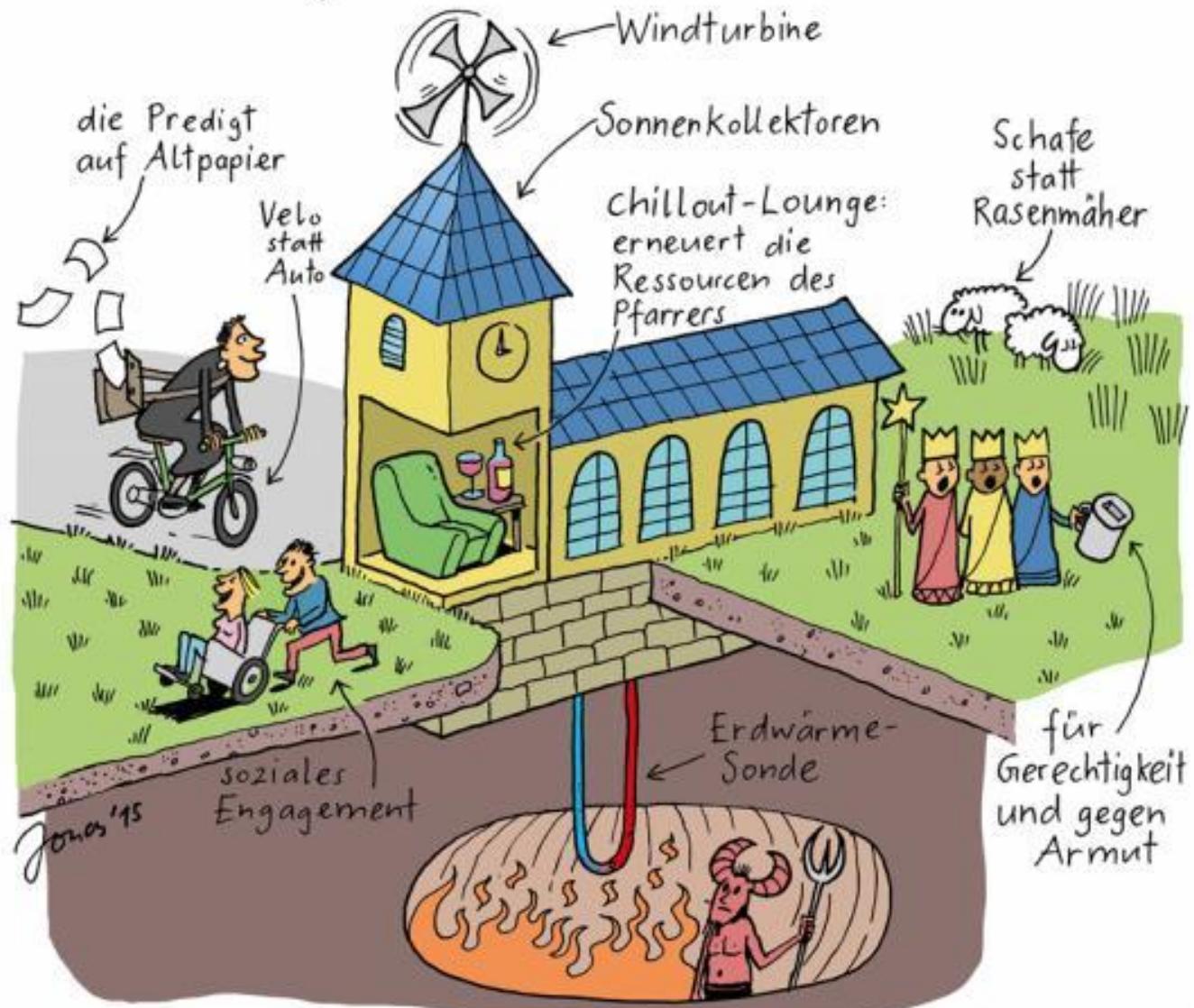


A sustainable church

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 was initially prepared by the Hub Faith Organisations and the working Group „Churches and Church Organisation.“

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