


## Project on sustainability at the University of Tübingen

– The way to a sustainable earth is through our stomach –


**1 Project:** the student's organization 'Greening the University' wants to improve the canteens of the university according to modern sustainable approaches. Thus, the basic aim is to reduce the ecological footprint.




**2 Condition:** The University of Tübingen recognizes its social and civic responsibility as a crucial institution for societies' future. It wants to be both a platform for scientific exchange but also a model for a solution-driven implementation. Therefore, it has integrated sustainability in the university's constitution.

 A constitutional change is not a pre-condition but it does facilitate future measurements which may provoke economic or even civic resistance

**3 Implementation:** Since the basic aim of reducing the ecological footprint of the canteens is a big task, this project has been planned in 2 steps: short-term measurements and long-term measurements.

 A 2-steps-approach has basically pragmatic reasons. First, these short-term measurements are cheap and do not provoke resistance. They shall smooth further – and more controversial – future measurements. Second, constructing a new canteen is an undertaking which has to be planned diligently (short-term) and then constructed accordingly (long-term).

Short-term measurements	Long-term measurements
	Food restrictions
Introducing a black list of food according to social and environmental standards, e.g. endangered fish species	Reducing meat consumption through alternative vegetarian dishes (at least once a week no meat) and more expensive (ecological reasonable) prizes for meat dishes
	Organic food
Introducing 2 'ecological days' per week, offering organic food alternatives	Offering everyday an organic alternative dish
	New canteen buildings
Planning of new canteen buildings according to sustainable requirements	Construction of the new canteen buildings (e.g. considering thermal insulation, solar panels, etc.)

 These measurements are surely not suited for all regions. Nevertheless, the project it-self can be applied to all universities since the measurements are flexible. E.g. if organic food is not easily and cheaply available in a country, the canteens can at least switch to regional food supporting local peasants