

Low Carbon at Work. Changing Large Scales Organizations to Achieve a Low-Carbon Europe



Data of Your Paper



Topic

- Resilience
- Lifestyle
- Building
- Resources
- Tourism
- Energy

Title of the Paper

Low Carbon at Work. Changing Large Scales Organizations to Achieve a Low-Carbon Europe

Form of Presentation

- Poster
- Presentation

Short Description (maximum 2500 characters)

Patterns of unsustainable production and consumption have been recognized as main causes of climate change. Despite cross-cutting multidisciplinary research and policy efforts in most European states it has not been possible to achieve significant changes in consumption and production, as it has been recognized by the progress report on the EU's Sustainable Development Strategy 2008.

As a key practice of everyday life, work is a place and space where the sometimes contradictory demands of economic profit and environmental sustainability meet and are negotiated, with the resulting effects on work practices, energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. As people spend an important part of their lives at work, within a community of values, norms and everyday practices, it is also the place where identities are negotiated, where individual values are transformed and where sustainability-related behavior is either promoted and rewarded or hindered and discouraged (Brown et al. 2007). Large scale organizations can impact on consumption patterns in two different ways. On the one hand, by creating a context which promotes environmentally-friendly behaviors and, on the other, by introducing policy designed to reduce overall organizational consumption. In addition, workers have the potential to promote environmentally responsible behaviour models in other areas of life and be active as civil society members in environmental protection organizations (Álvarez et al., in press).

LOCAW project aims at providing an understanding of the drivers and barriers to sustainable lifestyles by researching the determinants of everyday practices and behaviors in the workplace and then using these results to create agent-based models (Sánchez-Marño et al., in press) that would simulate the complex environments of large scale organizations of both the private and the public spectrum. These models are built as tools to test policies intended to introduce change in organizations and their results can provide interesting insight into policy-making at all levels. LOCAW uses a multi-method approach in order to analyze everyday practices at work and the relationship between practices at work and practices outside of work in large-scale

organizations, mixing qualitative (focus-groups, structured observation, in-depth interviews and life-history interviews) and quantitative (questionnaires) methods. Finally, it uses back-casting scenarios to define change in the studied organizations.

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