

## Platform Footprint – Using personal allowances to go beyond the efficiency-debate



Data of Your Paper



### Topic

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

### Title of the Paper

Platform Footprint – Using personal allowances to go beyond the efficiency-debate

### Form of Presentation

- Poster
- Presentation

### Short Description (maximum 2500 characters)

Ecological Footprint - unlike most scientifically grounded sustainability metrics - allows to directly relate personal lifestyle to the resulting global effects.

Using the very graphic measure “global hectare”, which stands for a hectare with an average global productivity, allows comparing for e.g. meat consumption with air-travel and the use of a mobile phone. The limited bio capacity of our planet is always the reference system. Changing lifestyles towards a “one-planet living” allows winning quality of life as well as reducing the rebound effects.

The allocation of a person’s personal allowance with “area of planet earth” (in this case 1,8 gha in 2011) is much more easy to comprehend than any other personal allowances like tons of material or CO<sub>2</sub>. “Available area” is well imaginable for humans, because it has been a crucial factor of survival for millennia. It is still a comprehensible natural reference for modern men.

With your personal resource-limits being obvious, the consequences for a “fair sharing of planet Earth” are much more obvious. Fighting for or sharing of resources.

Our experience shows that people are prepared to take on the challenge in simulations and do use all their potential to make the best use from their allowance. Thus fostering sufficiency- as well as efficiency-thinking. If these insights relate indeed to real live decisions of individuals is to be investigated. While we acknowledge that the individual approach has its systemic limits, a broad understanding of the challenge in the personal case provides the necessary requirements for politics and business. Applying the allowance-thinking to regions, nations and humankind will help turning politics and business towards future-proof societies, towards fair house rules for spaceship earth. On the personal level, the quest for a good live within the physical limits reveals the relative importance. The so called “5-Finger-Rule” follows almost naturally and highlights the crucial topics. Participants realize that daily life can not only remain manageable but will increase life-quality. So change occur, out of workshop experience, not only in consumption and resource-efficiency, but also in work patterns, necessary democratic interference, growth, deceleration etc.. It remains clear that separation of rubbish, switching off the light at home and so one provides useful assistance, but not

enough for reaching a stable life in freedom on a physically limited world.

MS or WP