



**KULTURWISSENSCHAFTLICHES
INSTITUT ESSEN**

**FORSCHUNGSKOLLEG DER
UNIVERSITÄTSALLIANZ RUHR**

Local and regional Future Councils

A governance experiment in the Ruhr Area

I. Cultural dimensions of the energy transition

Cultural dimensions of the energy transition

1. Transformation: structural change towards sustainable life patterns
2. Related to questions of livelihood & quality of life
3. Shift of perspectives: from present-oriented to future-oriented

Restricted room for maneuvers in the Ruhr Area

- All actors are confronted with multi-dimensional structural change
- Energy Transition hardly finds attention in everyday life



Form of governance
taking all these changes & problems into account

II. Civic commitment as a political resource

Citizens committed to sustainability

- Transformative practices
- Thinking of alternative, sustainable path dependencies
- Potential multipliers
- Maintain networks
- Experts of their social & spatial environments

Civic commitment as
political resource

III. Future Council as a governance experiment

Local and regional Future Councils

Aim

mutual awareness & support

Procedure

- 20 people: civic, political & administrative actors
- gather ideas of sustainable path dependencies; identify obstacles & best practices regarding cooperation; develop solutions

Possible results

idea collection about forms of cooperation *within* and *between* actor groups

Effect: shift from present to future orientation

On level of institutions

- Consultative power
- Source of inspiration
- Source of information

On level of individuals

- Strengthen civic commitment
- Spreading transformative practices through networks



future-oriented governance form
between different actors encouraging
collaboration & reciprocal learning processes



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