

Abstract Template

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Organisation : City of Bremen

Short description:

The northern German city of Bremen (population 547,000) has undergone a great deal of change in recent years from its roots as a shipbuilding city. It is well known for innovative transport initiatives but, having a small budget, Bremen needs to maintain a strong focus on the long-term efficiency of its measures. Currently about 60% of citizens' journeys are carried out by walking, cycling and Public Transport, and Bremen is a reference city for Car-Sharing development. Bremen is also the lead partner in the CARE-North (Carbon Responsible Transport Strategies for the North Sea Area) Project, which is establishing a framework to develop new strategies for post-fossil and carbon responsible transport (see www.care-north.eu).

Presentation title: Carbon Responsible Transport

Executive Summary of your Abstract:

Reduction in dependence on mineral oil, reducing CO₂ emissions and improving life quality in the city are objectives of a holistic mobility concept. The hardware of infrastructure and transport services has to go together with the software of image and the emotional perception of the transport modes. Bremen serves as an example of carbon responsible transport strategies. The presentation will highlight the role of alternative fuels, of walking and cycling and Car-Sharing as examples of a new mobility culture.

Abstract:

Whereas industry, households and electricity generation show a reduction in CO₂ emissions, the transport sector still shows a tendency to increase GHG emissions. Parallel to this, transport – a sector still highly dependent on mineral oil – will certainly see rising prices as oil supplies are depleted.

The twin threats of climate change and oil scarcity require a paradigm shift in urban transport strategies. But while alternative fuels and propulsion technologies have a crucial role to play in reducing the carbon dependence of transport, they do nothing to address traffic congestion or issues of urban liveability.

Congestion and problems in our urban “living room” call for solutions beyond technology. They require a new mobility culture with less dependence on car ownership. This means that carbon responsible and post-fossil transport strategies must include the psychological aspects of transport together with the technological ones.

The City of Bremen is an example of such a paradigm shift in action. Its Climate Protection Action Plan includes a number of measures in the field of urban mobility, with the most efficient being encouraging and supporting the use of Public Transport in the city (tram) and in the region (light rail) and cycling. Today, 25% of all trips in Bremen are by bike (with 30% projected by 2020) and 16% by Public Transport. Car-Sharing (or car clubs) plays an important supporting role.

Bremen was one of only three ‘Urban Best Practice’ examples selected worldwide in the field of transport to have an ongoing display at the 2010 World Exposition in Shanghai, China. This was based on the city’s use of Car-Sharing to reclaim road space for better purposes than car parking. Bremen, a city of half a million,

demonstrates the potential. In place of 1,000+ seldom-used personal cars, Bremen's 5,600 Car-Sharing customers share a fleet of 150 modern Car-Sharing vehicles. The cars removed from the road are equivalent to about 5 kilometres of street space. The city's Car-Sharing Action Plan aims to further exploit the potential by quadrupling its number of Car-Sharers by 2020.

Resumé: Michael Glotz-Richter is Senior Project Manager for Sustainable Mobility for the German city-state of Bremen in the Senate Department for Environment, Construction, Transport and European Affairs. Michael holds a diploma in Urban and Regional Planning from the Technical University in Berlin (1984). In his professional career, Michael has always worked on the link between urban development, transport strategies and urban lifestyle. Having worked in Berlin and Cologne, he started at the City of Bremen in 1990. Since 1994 he has been responsible for sustainable mobility and for many internationally recognised model projects on sustainable transport and environmentally-friendly mobility.

Recommended reading:

www.bauumwelt.bremen.de (City of Bremen / mainly in German, partly English)

www.care-north.eu (Carbon responsible transport strategies in the North Sea Area, project website in English)

www.momo-cs.eu (European momo Car-Sharing project / in English)

www.civitas.eu (European CIVITAS initiatives, Bremen was "CIVITAS City of the Year 2005")

www.expo-carsharing.info (special website in English, German and Chinese for the World Exposition 2010 in Shanghai – where Bremen serves as "Urban Best Practice" in the field of transport)