



Welcome address by the President of TU Braunschweig, Professor Angela Ittel TU for Future on 30 November 2022

Dear Mr Durner,
dear Professor Gerhard Reese,
dear Representatives of the AStA and Students for Future,
dear Organisers from the Green Office,
dear Students and dear Participants

I am very pleased to welcome you to the TU for Future series at TU Braunschweig. This winter semester, the series is already taking place for the third time. I am excited and grateful for this initiative at our University. Because of the fantastic format of this event and the possibility to receive credits for participation, the series is not only a place for knowledge exchange, but also a wonderful educational platform for our students.

The topic of sustainability, or climate protection, is of particular importance to TU Braunschweig. We consider TU Braunschweig to be a place of innovation for a sustainable future. We educate people who will shape solutions for global challenges. Our students are decision-makers and disseminators of the future. With their knowledge, mindset and awareness, they shape the world and our society.

Research at the TU is already making an important contribution to shaping the energy transition and finding answers to the challenges of the climate crisis. Research projects on tackling climate change and the use of regenerative energies include, for example, the Collaborative Research Centre on the Digitisation of Construction, battery research or research into LowTech concepts at the Institute for Building Climatology and Energy of Architecture (IBEA), and many more.

With regard to teaching, we are currently working hard to integrate sustainability in all its facets wherever possible and to raise awareness. Without thinking and acting sustainably, we cannot shape the future in a responsible way. It is therefore becoming an elementary component of our curriculum.

Furthermore, our University is already taking steps towards holistic development. In a participatory university development process, sustainability has emerged as the basis for all decisions and all processes at our University. The criterion of sustainability defines our actions across all pillars of the University—research, teaching & studies, transfer, governance & administration. We have also created a new position for a full-time Vice President for Digitalisation and Sustainability to assume responsibility and to advance the mission towards a sustainable university as quickly and clearly as possible.

I am aware that we still have a long way to go in implementing our visions in the area of sustainability. And it is all the more important that initiatives like TU for Future are alive and well at our University.

Especially in the area of teaching, we have blind spots with regard to climate change and sustainability. That is why I am very pleased that there is a bottom-up initiative that addresses these shortcomings and that has been so well received by students and many other target groups. So far there have been over 400 registrations on StudIP and over 800 viewers on YouTube. I warmly congratulate the organisers on this success! But I also see it as a plea to the University's management and the lecturers to integrate education on sustainability and climate change issues more firmly into their teaching.

I am particularly pleased to be able to open the event of the TU for Future series **because you, dear Mr Reese** from the University of Koblenz-Landau, **who as a psychologist are also one of my peers**, will be giving a lecture today. The topic of the lecture will be "Climate crisis = behavioural crisis? Catalysts and barriers to sustainable action". The role of psychology in communicating and implementing the necessary behavioural changes to overcome the climate crisis is very often underestimated. I am very grateful to the organisers of the series for including this aspect in the design of TU for Future. I would especially like to thank Mr Reese for making the journey to Braunschweig to share his knowledge with us this evening.

Dear Students, dear Organisers, climate protection is a topic that in terms of its topicality and urgency cannot be overestimated. We are dependent on joint action and systemic changes for sustainable development in our society. The current energy crisis, which is forcing us to make savings and change our behaviour, shows that this is not easy. The driving force behind ideas to bring about these changes can be found, among other places, in this room, at our University. These are the people who will shape the change. And each and every one of you can contribute. I appreciate that so many have joined us today and encourage all TU Braunschweig students to take full advantage of offers such as TU for Future and to get involved as actively as possible.