



Greeting by the President of TU Braunschweig, Professor Angela Ittel, Digital Town Hall on 10 November 2022

Dear Colleagues,
dear Members of Staff,
dear Students,
—in short, dear Members of TU Braunschweig

I am very pleased to welcome you to this first Digital Town Hall.

The Digital Town Hall is **one of the four new dialogue formats that have been launched at TU Braunschweig**. Its purpose is to inform you all about current topics at the University and at the same time—and this is particularly important to me—to engage in dialogue with you. As you may already have noticed in the past few months, this **dialogue** is a very special concern of mine.

That is why I would like to start by encouraging you to really make use of this opportunity to exchange views and to ask your questions.

The topic of today's Town Hall is the energy crisis. The topic concerns us all—whether as private individuals or as a university as a whole. And we can **all make our small contribution to overcoming the current energy crisis**. Mr Smyrek has already informed you continuously over the last few weeks and will later also **present further ideas and concrete suggestions**, which we will also make available to you in two languages in the next few days.

The situation is difficult and demands that we all show a certain degree of flexibility. Looking at the current challenges of energy supply and the legitimate concerns about price increases and colder offices, what sometimes fades into the background is what triggered this crisis: **the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation in violation of international law and the targeted use of energy as a means of political influence**. Once again, I would like to **explicitly condemn** this.

As a university with its **many buildings, where important, promising, but in part very energy-intensive research is carried out, the resulting price increases affect us directly and to a large extent**. Mr Smyrek will be giving you a presentation on this in a moment.

As is reported in the news, politicians are currently working under high pressure to find solutions to curb the price increases in a socially acceptable way. **In this context, universities were initially not explicitly classified as particularly in need of protection**. After a **great deal of protest** from the universities and public appeals, including by my colleague Tanja Brühl and me in our function as TU9

board members, **the state subsidy for natural gas as well as the cap on energy prices now also explicitly apply to institutions of education and science, according to Federal Minister of Education and Research Stark-Watzinger.** This is a great relief, as these measures at least to some extent reduce the burden of enormously rising energy costs.

Nevertheless, despite these measures, the **University is facing major financial challenges with regard to energy costs and inflation.** That's why every kilowatt-hour saved is important—I appeal to you: **Please contribute actively and share your ideas and suggestions on how to save energy** with us.

And while, of course, at this stage we are looking **in particular at short-term measures to be taken this coming winter,** any innovation or behavioural change that leads to a reduction in energy consumption is also, of course, at the same time **a contribution to reducing the University's emissions and thus a contribution to combat climate change.**

Now I would like to hand over to Mr Smyrek, who will give you an **overview on how energy is used at the TU** and describe **some concrete recommendations and measures at TU Braunschweig.**

Afterwards, you will have **the opportunity to ask questions and share your thoughts.** Feel free to write them in the chat so we can call you up.

Mr Smyrek, the floor is yours.