

Track 1 - The bioresource transition in regions

Title Implementation and management of the :metabolon-site as a research- and transfer cluster for innovative energy- and resources technologies

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3 keywords

cluster, research, transfer

Text abstract (max. 300 words)

:metabolon is a landfill site, that is in the state of transformation to a location of learning, research, business and leisure. The site has been a household waste disposal since 1982. In 2004 the deposit of organic landfill has been ended and today only a small portion of the site is filled with inert waste. The site is still used for the logistics of different waste fractions and for the handling of special waste.

Based on the political decision to give this place back to the population of the area, a totally new subsequent use of the landfill area has been developed. The reconstruction of the site was mainly financed by European regional funding under the EFRE-program.

Result is a totally new place, based on a five-pillow organizational structure that addresses population as well as the scientists:

- (1) A place for learning about energy and environment outside school
- (2) A place for scientific research and university education, closely connected to the Cologne University of Applied Sciences
- (3) A local energy competence center that addresses specialists in their job as well as the public
- (4) A business park, focusing on the themes around waste, energy and recycling
- (5) A place for leisure and recreation that is a magnet for the public in the region

Many synergetic effects are generated by the junction of these five thematic topics. Especially activities under pillow (2) are gaining a lot of advantages compared to classical research at university by the close connection to industry, school education and public. Research and education activities are oriented to practical applications. Public interest in the research questions and the results handled on this side is fostering the high quality of the scientific work.