



Climate Bridge Conference

October 14 – 15, 2021

two-day hybrid conference

collaboration between the Rutgers Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability and the Rutgers Climate Institute,
supported by the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany New York

Part of the Transatlantic Climate Bridge Initiative

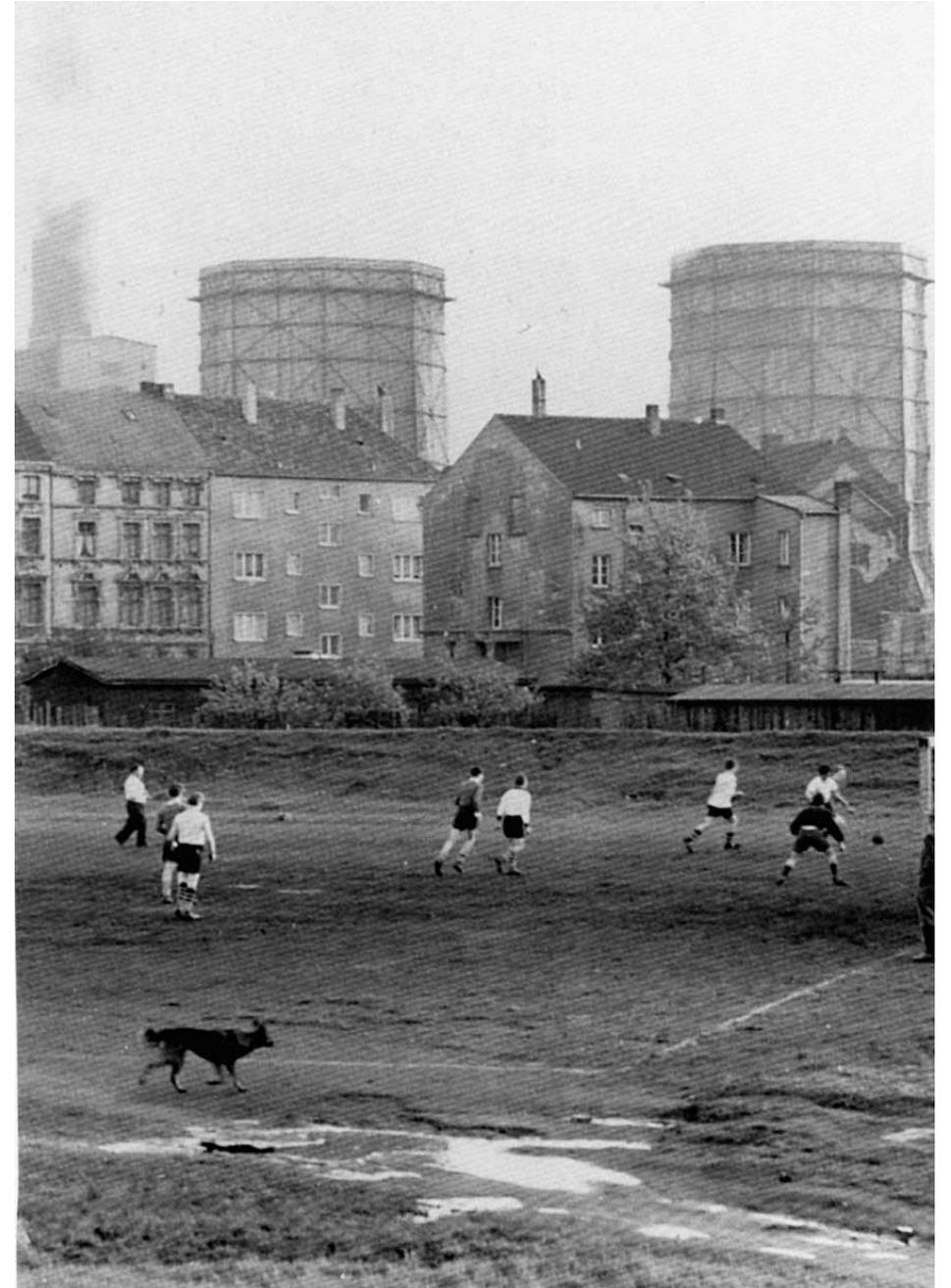


New Jersey and the Ruhr Region

Critical comparison between the two metropolitan areas provides opportunities to discuss climate adaptation strategies.

Ruhr Region

Industrialization attracted immigrants
Provincial culture of hard work
Decline since 1970



Chargesheimer 1958 "Im Ruhrgebiet, Fußballplatz"

Parallel Panels

- **People – Place – Policy**

What are major challenges on both sides of the Atlantic for people, policy, and place? Identify challenges and explore how an international comparison and conversation could be productive.

- **Rain – Sea – Land**

Torrential rain, rising sea level, and warmer land temperatures are becoming increasingly difficult challenges. These panels will develop an interdisciplinary and international approach. Identify how people, place, and policy are linked.

- **Visions for People – Place – Policy**

New Horizons: What would be our dream land ideal approach? If we were not constrained by resources, what would we do?. These visions may not be applicable immediately but may turn into scenarios that inform next steps.

Landscape Planning (= „Environmental Land Use Planning“): Assets



Landscape, Scenery



Recreation



Soil



Water



Species, Biotopes,
Biodiversity

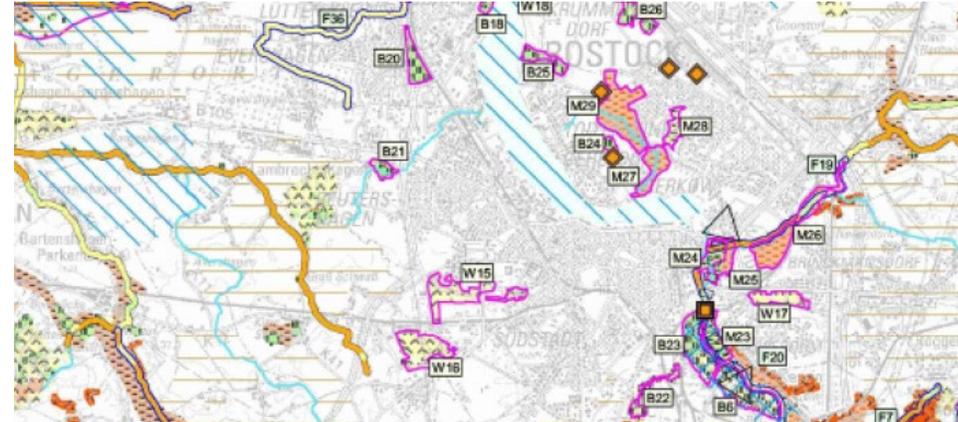


Climate, Air

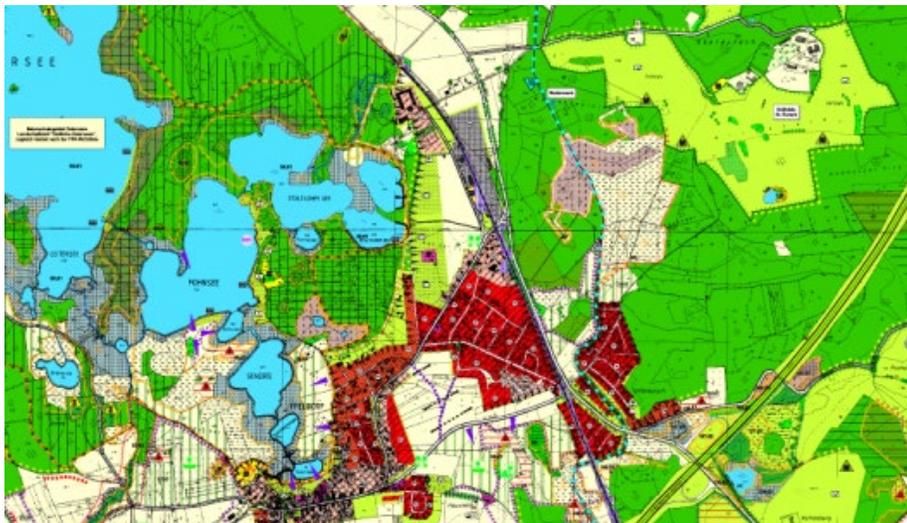
Spatial levels of Landscape Planning



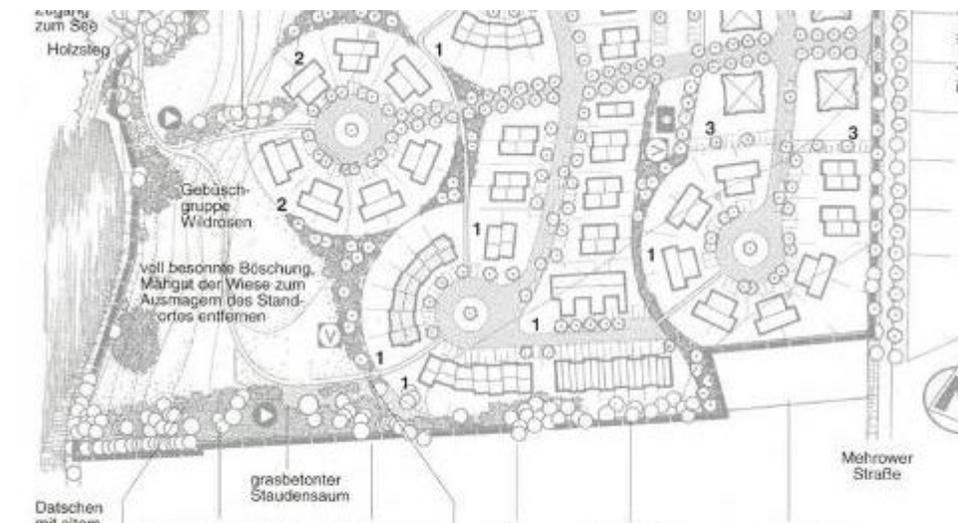
Landscape Program (Federal state)



Landscape Master Plan (Region)



Local Landscape Plan (Municipality)



Open Space Plan (Sub-local)

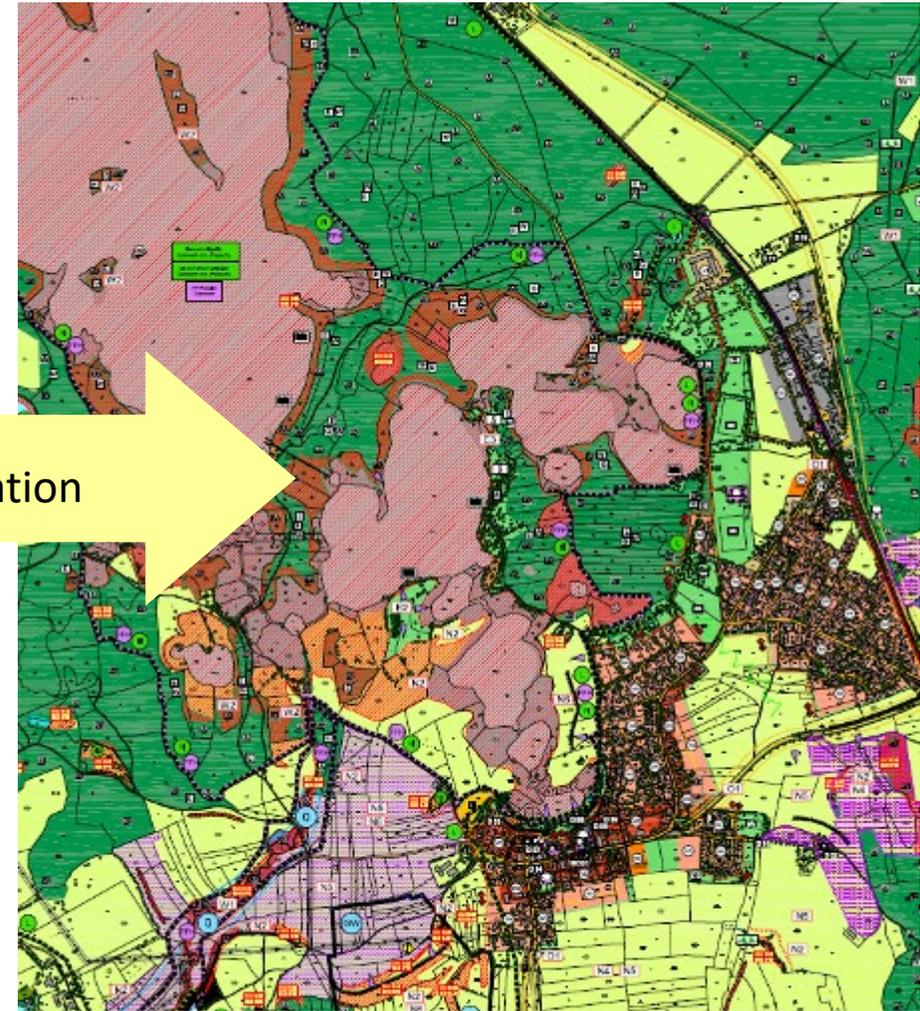
Two strands of formal area-covering planning

Level	Spatial Planning (comprehensive)	Environmental Land Use Planning (Landscape Pl.)
National	Legal framework No plan	Legal framework No plan
Federal States (1:100.000 – 1:300.000)	State Development Plan (Landesentwicklungsplan)	Landscape Program (Landschaftsprogramm)
Regions (1:50.000 – 1:100.000)	Regional Plan (Regionalplan)	Landscape Master Plan (Landschaftsrahmenplan)
Municipalities (1:10.000 – 1:50.000)	Preparatory Land Use Plan (Flächennutzungsplan)	Landscape Plan (Landschaftsplan)
(1:500 – 1:2.500)	Binding Land Use Plan (Bebauungsplan)	Open Space Plan (Grünordnungsplan)

Integration of Landscape Planning into Spatial Planning



Landscape (Environmental) Plan



Spatial Plan / Land Use Plan

Integration

New Jersey Land Use

- Donna Rendeiro
- Executive Director
- NJ State Planning Commission/Office of Planning Advocacy

- 565 municipalities with sole land use authority
- NJ State Planning Act
 - ✓ Requires a NJ State Development and Redevelopment Plan to guide and encourage development in appropriate places
 - ✓ 8 Goals, plus climate change and environmental justice considerations
 - ✓ Every acre in the state is identified by planning areas, centers, cores, and nodes
 - ✓ Consistency with the State Plan is voluntary!



New Jersey's Coastal Ecological Restoration and Adaptation Plan



Identifying Opportunity

Identify areas of New Jersey's coast for future restoration, enhancement, or preservation to meet the goal of improved ecosystem health, community resilience and carbon sequestration.

Kati Angarone, Associate Commissioner for Science & Policy
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

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Climate Bridge Conference

Challenges of Climate Change for Spatial and Environmental Planning – An International Dialogue

Two-day [hybrid conference](#) at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, October 14–15, 2021. A collaboration between the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany New York, The Rutgers Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability and the Rutgers Climate Institute.

[Sessions at a Glance \(156k PDF\)](#)[Speakers and Abstracts](#)[Posters](#)[Planning Committee](#)

The Transatlantic Climate Bridge (TCB) was initiated in 2008. As a network of various activities supported by Germany's Federal Foreign Office, Federal Ministry for the Environment and the foreign missions in North America, the TCB aims to stimulate and expand transatlantic exchange on climate and energy policy. Our Rutgers conference will focus on the comparison between New Jersey and the German Ruhr Region.

Conference Sessions:

Opening Remarks:
Welcome and Introduction into the Conference Approach
[Video](#)

Introduction into the Topic:
Ruhr Region, New Jersey, and the changing climate in the context of People, Place, and Policy.
[Video](#)

Panel 1 — People:
As increasingly severe climate events around the world have shown us, the effects of climate change are uneven. This panel discusses how people are impacted differently by climate change and how these inequalities are addressed in New Jersey and the Ruhr region.
[Video](#)

Panel 2 — Place:
This panel opens a dialogue on the relationship between climate change and the places we inhabit. How are both natural and built systems impacted by climate change?
[Video](#)

Panel 3 — Policy:
Both Germany and the US operate under a democratic governance structure within an underlying capitalistic system that honors private property. A major difference between these two contexts is how much planning and policy can impact land use and land management decisions.
[Video](#)

Panel 4 — Rain:
The Challenges: How do torrential rain events place additional stress on stormwater management systems? Where are similarities between New Jersey and the Ruhr Region?
[Video](#)

Panel 5 — Sea:
The Challenges: What are our responses to sea level rise? How do we handle the often competing logics of resiliency and equity? Is retreat thinkable and can it be implemented equitably?
[Video](#)

Climate change is creating new challenges for spatial and environmental planning on both sides of the Atlantic. While seeking to moderate the impacts of climate change from rising temperatures, extreme precipitation and sea level rise, the context of planning and policy must also address growing awareness of social equity and environmental justice. New Jersey's underserved communities are similarly exposed to environmental challenges as their counterparts in the German Ruhr Region, settlement patterns and brownfield issues also show similarities. This has become evident through 15 years of successful collaboration, including summer programs, a landscape Architecture design studio, internships for Rutgers students and publications.

The conference Climate Bridge will foster a collaborative dialogue among planners, designers, scholars, public administrators, and decision makers from both sides of the Atlantic. Scholars from different universities in Germany and the United States will contribute papers and discussion that highlight interdisciplinary approaches to addressing the environmental, economic, political, and social dimensions of planning considering climate change.

Sponsors



Main Funder:

The Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany New York. Thanks to the support of the consulate, the conference was able to reach people overseas and enrich the conference with interdisciplinary approaches across both sides of the Atlantic.

Partners and Collaborators

[Video](#)

Panel 6 — Land:
The Challenges: How do increasing temperatures and rainfall intensity impact our cities and suburban areas. What strategies in the fields of urban forestry and urban agriculture exist to mitigate heat island effects and to reduce soil degradation?
[Video](#)

Closing Comments:
Summary of the day's outcome
[Video](#)

Day 2 Keynote Presentation:
The Future: Changing Demographics
[Video](#)

Panel 7 — Vision for People:
How do we ensure fair access to resources and increase resilience across all communities? How can we prepare current and future generations to face the impacts of climate change?
[Video](#)

Panel 8 — Vision for Place:
How do we mitigate the effects of climate change related events — torrential rains, unprecedented heat, fires, and storm surges? What is the biggest challenge facing the answer to this issue?
[Video](#)

Panel 9 — Vision for Policy:
How can policy acknowledge our underlying capitalistic system while addressing substantial changes of procedures and administrative frameworks?
[Video](#)

Keynote Presentation:
Adapting our natural and built environment one design project at a time.
[Video](#)

Public Panel Discussion - Political Visions:
This panel focused on the German-American comparison concerning environmental planning approaches to climate change, highlighting that leadership on both sides of the Atlantic is required to set a new political agenda for a resilient future.
[Video](#)