

Sylvicultura Oeconomica (1713)

»We must therefore make the utmost efforts using the skills, science and diligence in the appropriate institutions of our country in order to conserve and plant trees, so that there is a continuous, constant and sustainable usage, because the forest is an indispensable resource without which our country in its essence cannot exist.«

## CONTACT PERSONS



Hans Carl von Carlowitz -  
Discoverer of the principle of sustained  
yield forestry

\* 14th December 1645, Oberrabenstein  
† 3rd March 1714, Freiberg, Saxony

### Network spokespersons

Prof. Dr. Thomas Hirth

Fraunhofer Institute for  
Interfacial Engineering and Biotechnology IGB  
Nobelstrasse 12  
70569 Stuttgart, Germany

Dr. Johanna Leissner

Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft Brussels Office  
Rue du Commerce 31  
1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Phone +32 2 506 4243

### Contact

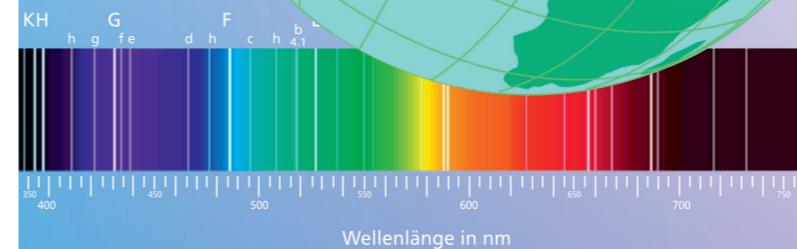
nachhaltigkeit@fraunhofer.de

Further information can be obtained under

[www.nachhaltigkeit.fraunhofer.de](http://www.nachhaltigkeit.fraunhofer.de)



## SUSTAINABILITY AND RESEARCH





## SHAPING THE FUTURE

The commitment to sustainability is an integral part of the overall concept of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft.

Many Fraunhofer Institutes investigate and develop products and processes with direct or indirect relevance to sustainability.

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft accepts its responsibility – in accordance with political, economic and societal needs – to contribute to sustainable development. It therefore intends

- to set its research goals and apply the results of its research so as to further sustainability
- to analyze and optimize its inner workings in accordance with the principle of sustainable development
- to promote publically the cause of sustainability both inside and outside its institutes.

*Successful economic activity is only possible on a long-term basis if we take into account the interaction with the environment and with society in general.*

## BACKGROUND

The 4th BMBF Forum on Sustainability took place in Leipzig in 2007 during the German Presidency of the EU Council with the aim of making research for sustainability an important vehicle for innovation in Europe. In this context, the four non-university research organisations in Germany signed a »Declaration for promoting a sustainable and competitive Europe through research«, thus making clear that the achievement of sustainable development is also part of their mission.

Immediately following the Leipzig Declaration, 16 Fraunhofer Institutes set up a working group »Sustainability and Research«.

Two years later this became the **Fraunhofer Sustainability Network**.

*Sustainable practices require that we shape our future with creativity, fantasy and vision and that we are prepared to venture along new, hitherto unknown paths.*

## VISION

The Fraunhofer Sustainability Network participates in the process of strategy development in the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft. Its aim is to increase the mutual interaction and integration of both research topics and people linked to sustainability. In this way, not only can the efficiency of research be enhanced, but the increased complexity of research, where sustainable development is involved, can also be addressed.

The **Fraunhofer Sustainability Network** plans to

- strengthen the leading role of Fraunhofer in this area
- establish Fraunhofer as an agent of change as well as
- communicate more effectively the concept of sustainability to the staff so that they identify themselves more strongly with the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft.

*In the development of competitive products, processes and services the application of sustainability criteria should accompany innovation, which in turn should also reinforce the technological leadership of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft.*

## STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABILITY

In its internal project »Strategy for Sustainability«, the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft faces up to its responsibility in addressing some important questions of the future.

The individual sub-projects

- mission, strategy and communication
- sustainable research and internal procedures
- research for sustainability

are intended to

- orient Fraunhofer more effectively towards the concept of sustainable development
- strengthen the process of innovation via appropriate strategies
- establish Fraunhofer more strongly as a service provider for industry, politics and society as well as
- define topics for the future which are also relevant for developing and emerging countries.

*The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is convinced that - in an integrative approach to the environment, to the economy and to society - environmentally friendly technologies and processes must be made available and given very high priority.*