

‘Green living’ in Freiburg

A few weeks before our Mural event, I started reflecting with one of my colleagues on what it means to live in Freiburg *for us*. How does Freiburg enable us to live more sustainably, and how does it limit us? Are there any pressures to be green in Freiburg? Leaving out our ‘environmental governance student’ bias, it was interesting to discover that we both had adopted more environmentally friendly habits since moving to Freiburg, simple things like using the bike or public transport every day, or buying vegetables from local farmers.



While we both found that Freiburg offers many opportunities to be green, such as an increased availability of green energy (apparently it's easy to switch to renewables) and of more sustainable products and services (from flea markets to tofu sausages), we also found a lot of limitations. Riding the bike in Freiburg is not always as safe as we might want it to be, there are not many free bike workshops in town (no uni bike workshop, the [StuSie workshop](#) is open only 2h per week!), the student accommodation service (Studentenwerk) doesn't seem to know about green public procurement and the garbage sorting possibilities are limited... But clearly, there are pressures to become greener, and this we find good! One nice example is the good old STOP sign at the crossroads next to our faculty.



Finally, when our creative Mural Day arrived, I found myself asking these three questions to random people on the street, over and over again. At first, I found it difficult to get inputs from people (with some people even running away from me), and even more so when trying to convince them to put their thoughts on the mural. But by the end of the day, I was amazed by how friendly and creative many people were, and how many of them were ready to spend some time with us, speaking about what it means for them to live sustainably in Freiburg (and usually many other things), and even to let a creative mark on our mural (actually children were the most creative ones).

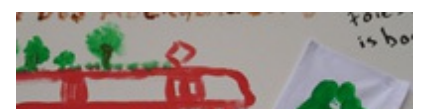


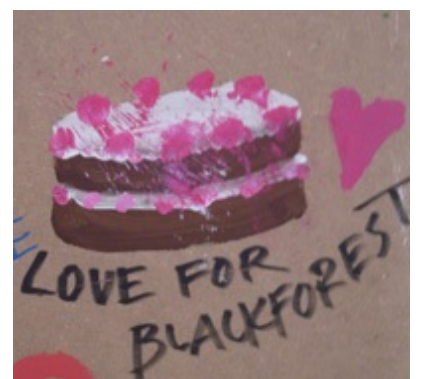
Apart from this, it was interesting to see how many of these people were knowledgeable of global and local environmental issues, and how many actually were making considerable effort to live more sustainably. Whether it was about...



- reflecting on our environmental footprint -> how does living a sustainable lifestyle go along with air travel every time we go on holiday? (important issue raised by a lady, who afterwards happily took off one of her shoes and literally let her footprint on the mural)
- acknowledging that green opportunities like ‘Vaubanismus’ and ‘Wiehronismus’ are not accessible to everyone, mostly in terms of money,
- asking how we can even speak of ‘being green’ within this system we live in, or even...
- questioning the economic system on which almost everything around us is built,

it was inspiring, and we think it's worth coming back to reflect and discuss more on this, on the 1st of March!





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