

‘Towards Sustainable Logistics’: Selection of statements by experts from science and industry published in the report**Otfried Höffe, professor of philosophy at the University of Tübingen, calls for a cultural change towards a more energy-saving lifestyle:**

“What is required is a veritable about-face – indeed, nothing less than a cultural change – from an energy-intensive to an energy-saving lifestyle. Considerations here all too often move in circles, from climate to energy, to climate. In reality, however, a square is needed, consisting of the four corners of climate, energy, political dependence/independence, and national economy.”

Katarina Tomoff, Vice President of GoGreen at Deutsche Post DHL, points out that the desire to boost economic growth and at the same time protect the environment can be two complementary goals:

“Today, many still see a contradiction between economic growth and environmental protection, rather than realizing how they might go hand-in-hand. Sustainability can be a trend-setting business model, opening up new market opportunities and preparing for future scenarios. It can also help to cut costs thanks to the introduction of more efficient processes and reduced inputs of natural resources.”

Detlef Sprinz, senior scientist at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, believes a “sandwich solution” with strong incentives to innovate will be a reasonable option to manage climate change.

“A combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches – the “sandwich solution” – to managing climate change may be a realistic expectation for the foreseeable future [...]. For the transport sector [this] may entail a worldwide sectoral cap combined with company- and industry-level innovation. [...] Decentralized incentives for experimentation with social, economic, and technological innovations allow us to harness entrepreneurial spirit”

Clemens Beckmann, Executive Vice President responsible for Innovations within the MAIL division of Deutsche Post DHL, outlines the multiplicative nature of sustainability:

In today's complex societies, sustainability relates to the actions of individuals or stakeholder groups in dynamic political, social or ecological systems. Such systems are characterized by a large number of influencing factors, which often do not show linear behavior. As a result, there are extreme states in these systems, accompanied by strong system destabilization and high risk. [...] Modern society has become keenly aware of systems whose functioning is critical to the survival not only of individuals, but also of entire populations, or even of mankind as a whole. [...] One of the topics that has gained tremendous attention in recent years is the threat to the environment posed by global warming, due to man-made emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases.

A. Denny Ellerman, former executive director of the Center of Energy and Environmental Policy Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), says that pricing emissions will lead to a more sustainable use of resources:

"The common and distinguishing feature of market-based approaches is that a price is placed on emissions. [...] As is the case with naturally scarce goods, the existence of a price makes users – whether they are producers or consumers – more sparing in their use."

Petra Kiwitt, Executive Vice President of DHL Solutions & Innovations at Deutsche Post DHL, explains how the implementation of a comprehensive city logistics concept requires the concerted effort of numerous actors:

"Although some of the measures described above could be implemented by individual customers or logistics providers, the topic of city logistics is a prime example of the need for strong collaboration and upfront dialogue between customers of logistics services, retailers, governmental authorities, local administrations and logistics providers."

Robert de Souza, National University of Singapore, in an essay together with Zhou

Rong, Sustainable Supply Chain Centre Asia Pacific, and Laura Bolton, DHL Supply Chain, points out the role and responsibility of the fast growing Asian economy in realizing climate-friendly solutions in the transport industry:

“As Asian countries continue to industrialize rapidly, associated carbon emissions will greatly increase. Thus, there is a growing need for climate-friendly solutions in Asia, especially in the area of transport and logistics” [...] “In China, even though only 5.5% of all motor vehicles in the country are being used in the transportation industry, the sector still accounts for over 30% of China's total petroleum consumption.”

Lars Siebel, Head of Global Purchasing Logistics, Henkel AG & Co. KGaA, explains how sustainable logistics service providers can add value to the business of a global company:

“Especially interesting for Henkel are [*logistics service*] providers who have a comprehensive carbon accounting system for their operations in place. For us, the greatest value of carbon footprinting lies in obtaining a thorough understanding of our value chains, identifying emission hot spots and further reduction potentials. This helps us to discuss the benefits of new projects with our business partners and to respond to increasing data requests from our industrial and retail customers.”

Frank Straube and Stefan Doch, Institute for Technology and Management of the Technische Universität Berlin, predict that the increasing importance of environmental sustainability in logistics will enhance the role of logistics service providers as transport and network optimization partners:

“The optimization of an isolated distribution activity of a supplier could lead to a suboptimal solution regarding potential load factors and distance reduction. A more sustainable solution could be realized if the purchasing company takes a more integrated view, consolidating different supplier flows through the deployment of respective transport concepts.”

Rainer Wend, Executive Vice President Corporate Public Policy and Responsibility at Deutsche Post DHL, points out that sustainability expertise is not only internally beneficial, but also enables logistics providers to help their own customers in

becoming more sustainable:

“With the experience gained by increasing the sustainability of our own business practices, we are helping our customers to introduce low-carbon business models into their businesses. Deutsche Post DHL was the first logistics company to offer carbon-neutral shipping products, and to bundle its innovation activities in order to develop sustainable solutions for the industry”