

# Aim

WHAT is the nature of urban social innovation towards sustainability in the two countries?

WHAT are the social technologies invented or applied to become more sustainable?

HOW can we learn from each other's experience and diversity of approaches in different urban contexts?

These are the key questions this symposium seeks to address by bringing together selected people from academia, grassroots activists, environment entrepreneurs and policy makers for a dialogue about the role and potentials that socially innovative individuals and citizens initiatives have in the sustainability transition of cities.

# Contact



**Wuppertal  
Institut**

Dr. Christoph Woiwode, Visiting Professor  
Indo-German Centre for Sustainability  
Indian Institute of Technology Madras  
Chennai 600 036, India  
[woiwode@igcs-chennai.org](mailto:woiwode@igcs-chennai.org)

Ms. Katrin Bienge & Mr. Kilian Topp  
Wuppertal Institut  
Sustainable Production and Consumption &  
Energy, Transport and Climate Policy  
Doepfersberg 19, 42103 Wuppertal, Germany  
[katrin.bienge@wupperinst.org](mailto:katrin.bienge@wupperinst.org),  
[kilian.topp@wupperinst.org](mailto:kilian.topp@wupperinst.org)

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Images: Green Bazaar in Chennai (C. Woiwode)



## Indo-German Dialogue on Green Urban Practices

Social innovation and change agents towards sustainable lifestyles and consumption

9 – 11 March 2017

Campus of the Indian Institute of  
Technology Madras, Chennai, India

In collaboration with



Sponsored by



## Background

In recent years, social dimensions are increasingly recognised as necessary for a global transition to sustainability.

Cities and towns have assumed an important role in action addressing global climate change at the local level. The 21st century will be dominated by the urban phenomenon, as approximately two thirds of the population across the globe is expected to live in cities by 2050.

Sustainable consumption patterns cannot be achieved by innovations of technological nature alone. It is essential that social practices and routines are taken into account.

Changes in lifestyle and consumption will also be needed to effect just or equitable transitions to sustainability globally. Lifestyle changes in turn necessitate a change in mindset (i.e. underlying values and worldviews) as well as shifts in social relations and the evolution of the built environment.

Across the globe, grassroots initiatives and individuals pioneer novel lifestyles, consumption patterns and ways of living. There is the need for a global perspective of these change agents who act in specific local contexts in countries as diverse as India and Germany.

Yet, while such initiatives are crucial to drive transformation in Germany and India, there are not many points of interaction between them.

## Programme

**9 - 11 March 2017**

**Day 1:** 9 March

Introduction and sharing experiences

**Day 2:** 10 March

Co-creation of collaborative activities and projects

**Day 3:** 11 March

Field trip and exposure visits



Photo credit: Anisha Debbarman

## Objectives & method

This interactive event intends to provide a platform of exchange, sharing of experiences and knowledge transfer on globally relevant issues of sustainable urban lifestyles and consumption patterns between actors in Germany and India with a view to co-create ideas to initiate follow-up projects and activities of mutual interest.

- ◆ Placing one's own initiative in a larger, global context
- ◆ Sharing experience and knowledge
- ◆ Cross-country and cross-cultural comparison and learning

During the first two days, a specific method of group facilitation, known as *Collaboratory*, will be utilised to guide the process. This is a collaborative multi-perspective, multi-stakeholder dialogue forum aiming at engaging relevant actors in a collective visioning process around "big" social challenges.

The event will be facilitated by an experienced moderator.