

Living space is a resource: As land use should be minimised, so should the use of living space in apartments and houses. OptiWohn explores ways to optimise the use of space for example by counseling mainly elderly people who live in large houses. Helping them share space, divide their houses or move to smaller places avoids energy consumption through housing development and increases sufficiency in housing.

Goal: To develop innovative strategies to optimise the use of living space /**Ziel:** Quartiersspezifische Sondierung und Entwicklung innovativer Strategien zur optimierten Nutzung von Wohnflächen.

The OptiWohn Project

How can per-capita-use of living space be reduced? The OptiWohn project explores three strategies: modification of existing buildings to make room for more people, sketches for new space-saving buildings, and change-management. The latter refers to consulting elderly people whose children have moved out. As partners in OptiWohn, the architects of werk.um look at the buildings and make suggestions for alteration.

In the cities of Cologne, Göttingen and Tübingen, agencies for living space will be launched, forming a network of already existing organisations and institutions like living-space-consultants (Wohnberatungen), homeshare schemes (Wohnen für Hilfe) and local housing companies.

Project duration: May 2019 – March 2022

Conference 2020: Invisible Living Space

- On the 24 & 25th of September 2020, a conference will be held in Oldenburg associated with OptiWohn: „*Der unsichtbare Wohnraum: Suffizient wohnen statt neu bauen*“ / Invisible living space: Sufficiency in housing instead of housing development. Practitioners and scientists discuss ways to explore the space that isn't needed anymore, like former childrens' rooms in apartments and houses.
- Topics: homeshare (Wohnen für Hilfe), social renting agencies (soziale Wohnraumvermittlung), energy consulting vs. housing consulting, helping people to move, co-housing.
- With support from: Kompetenzzentrum Bauen und Energie e.V. KoBE Oldenburg, Arbeiterwohlfahrt AWO Bezirksverband Weser-Ems e.V., Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg, Ecological Economics, and in cooperation with OptiWohn.

Research in Oldenburg: Homeshare Programmes in Germany (Vermittlungsstellen Wohnen für Hilfe)

Young people who like to help and are looking for a place to live can share a household with elderly people who have a large apartment or house, need some help and want company – that's the idea of homeshare („Wohnen für Hilfe“). In Germany 36 agencies exist and operate independantly. The Oldenburg-based partners of OptiWohn examine how the programmes work and assess their ecological benefits. The findings will help create the more complex agencies for living space of OptiWohn in Cologne, Göttingen and Tübingen.

Project Partners

- Wuppertal Institut für Klima, Umwelt und Energie
- Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg
- werk.um Architekten Darmstadt
- Stadt Göttingen
- Stadt Köln
- Stadt Tübingen



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Research Areas:

- Social Learning Processes
- International Environmental Policy
- Sustainable Development
- Collaborative and Network Governance

Regular Courses:

- International Sustainability Management
- Environmental and Sustainability Politics
- International Environmental Governance

Literature (selected)

- Bierwirth, Anja und Thomas, Stefan (2015): Almost best friends: sufficiency and efficiency; can sufficiency maximise efficiency gains in bulidings? In: First fuel now: ECEEE 2015 Summer Study; proceedings. Stockholm.
- Fuhrhop, Daniel (2018): Einfach anders wohnen. München.
- Fuhrhop, Daniel (2015) Verbiertet das Bauen! München.
- Steffen, Arne & Fuchs, Mathias (2015): Weniger ist weniger – und anders. In: db / Deutsche Bauzeitung, Heft 06/2015.