

Information on the topic of "Parking space management at the University of Oldenburg"

Report of the VP-V in the Senate 12/2023

In recent weeks, more and more questions have been raised about the introduction of parking space management. These questions were triggered by an article entitled "Free parking at the university - how long will it last?" by Christoph Kiefer on 23.10.2023. This article in the NWZ on the possible implementation of parking management at the University of Oldenburg has led to uncertainty, which we would like to address here.

We would have liked to present possible steps for the development of parking space management together with the associated participation process and a concrete timetable. The NWZ article with the journalist's request beat us to the punch, so we would now like to address the issue ahead of time. In order to make our approach transparent for everyone at the university, Vice President Jörg Stahlmann provided information on the current status in the Senate 12/2023 on 06.12.2023. The information presented can also be viewed on the Climate Protection Management website and will be communicated via the existing channels. We will be able to take up the topic again in a fact-based manner in the fall of 2024 after a thorough preparation of the topic.

Parking space management as an effective measure to achieve the university's climate protection goals

The fact is that parking space management is an effective measure for reducing car traffic and thus also greenhouse gas emissions. The university's climate protection concept was adopted in 2022. As a university, we are aiming to achieve climate neutrality by 2030. In order to achieve our climate protection goals, we are considering implementing this measure from the university's climate protection concept accordingly.

Some universities across Germany have already introduced parking space management. There is a wide range of management models, which differ in terms of technical implementation, operator type and fee structure. Accordingly, an individual, location-adapted model would have to be found for the University of Oldenburg.

There is currently a lack of basic information on implementation options at the university

It is also a fact that not even basic information on implementation options (e.g. through barriers, staff) is currently available at our locations. This information gap is to be closed by October 2024 by developing a basis for measures. The aim is for this to serve as a basis for further considerations and as a source of information in the participation process. As a result, this will support a goal-oriented discussion that can be based on data and facts.

Broad participation is firmly anchored in a possible specification of measures

As soon as basic information on implementation options is available, there will be a broad participation process - if the basis does not rule out further pursuit of this measure at all. Planning the implementation of this sensitive measure would of course take place in the knowledge that not all employees and students have the opportunity to easily switch to climate-friendly means of transportation. In addition, many people are already financially burdened by last year's inflation and energy crisis. A broad participation of employees and students is planned for the development of follow-up steps in order to conduct a discussion with them that can be based on data and facts.

Strengthening the university's climate protection management

In October, climate protection management was strengthened with a half-time position dedicated to the topic of everyday mobility. This position is not only responsible for reviewing parking space management, but also for developing incentives and other mobility measures that will hopefully benefit everyone at the university.

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