



**MORE INFORMATION ON THE TOPIC AND THE ORGANIZERS  
IS AVAILABLE FROM THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:**

Resource Cap Coalition: <http://www.ceeweb.org/rcc/>

CEEweb for Biodiversity: <http://www.ceeweb.org>

GreenDependent Institute: <http://www.greendependent.org>

Absolute Reductions project: <http://grf-spc.weebly.com/absolute-reductions.html>

**TO CONTACT THE ORGANIZERS, PLEASE WRITE TO:**

Veronika Kiss: [kiss@ceeweb.org](mailto:kiss@ceeweb.org)

Edina Vadovics: [edina@greendependent.org](mailto:edina@greendependent.org)

Sylvia Lorek: [sylvia.lorek@seri.de](mailto:sylvia.lorek@seri.de)

**If these and related questions are bothering you, come  
and discuss them with us at our scientific session:**

## **SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION: THE CHANCE FOR ABSOLUTE REDUCTION?**

ON 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER FROM 11:00 TO 13:00 IN ROOM: HS 7

**and/or our workshop:**

## **RESPECTING PLANETARY BOUNDARIES WHILE ENHANCING THE WELL-BEING OF ALL**

ON 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER FROM 14:30 TO 16:30 IN ROOM: S 321

## SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION: THE CHANCE FOR ABSOLUTE REDUCTION?

One of the wonderful (and sometimes unwieldy and troublesome) characteristics of the concept of sustainable consumption and production is that it can be used to create interlinkages and connect the dots in the complexity of sustainable development challenges: resource scarcity, environmental justice, global health, biodiversity loss, atmospheric pollution, waste generation, etc. This makes SCP the mainstay of sustainable development and in fact brings it around to serving as the “overarching objective” that the 2002 United Nations Johannesburg Summit declared it to be.

Thus, getting serious about sustainable development means getting serious about SCP (or, is it the other way around)? In light of our current ecological footprint (2+ planets), and given the magnitude and urgency of the sustainable development challenge, how about getting serious about the need for absolute reductions to a one-planet level.

Can absolute reductions in material throughput and energy use be achieved within a “reasonable” timeframe? Are there examples where reductions have been demonstrated? What materials are critical and which are substitutable? What targets can be set for resources consumption; what methods would be used to measure this? What structural changes would be needed in society; what institutions? What about regions or populations where consumption needs to increase to meet minimum needs of people? Is a new sustainability science approach needed?

This session intends to reflect on this questions. It starts with briefly introducing the REDUCTIONS project and relates it to ongoing research and political activities.

### PRESENTATIONS:

*Umpfenbach, K. & Hirschnitz-Garbers, M.:* Exploring consumption-focused policy mixes for absolute decoupling of well-being from resource use and environmental impacts

*Stratford, B.:* Ensuring equitable access to energy in the context of a cap

*Vadovics, E.:* Equity within limits: Introducing convergence mapping and initiatives with contraction as well as equity processes

**The presentations will be followed by moderated discussion.**

Moderator: *Lewis Akenji (IGES)*

4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER FROM 11:00 TO 13:00 IN ROOM: HS 7

## RESPECTING PLANETARY BOUNDARIES WHILE ENHANCING THE WELL-BEING OF ALL

The aim of the workshop is to explore how the imperatives of living within the limits of the planet and sharing its resources more equitably could be implemented.

It will start with brief presentations that introduce the objectives and topic of the workshop as well as the methodology to be used. Following this, participants will have the chance to get to know some already existing examples of “equity within limits” initiatives including top-down (e.g. policies) as well as bottom-up (e.g. communities) examples with the help of posters and other materials in small groups in an interactive way. Finally, world café type discussions will be held to discuss how these examples could be improved, promoted and multiplied.

### PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME:

#### 1. Presentations (30 min)

- *Edina Vadovics:* Well-being, social equity and planetary boundaries
- *Veronika Kiss:* Introducing the Resource Cap Coalition
- *Sylvia Lorek:* Examples of absolute reduction

#### 2. Interactive world café type discussion (60 min)

- in 3-5 small groups depending on number of participants

#### 3. Reporting back and further discussion in plenary (30 min)

4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER FROM 14:30 TO 16:30 IN ROOM: S 321