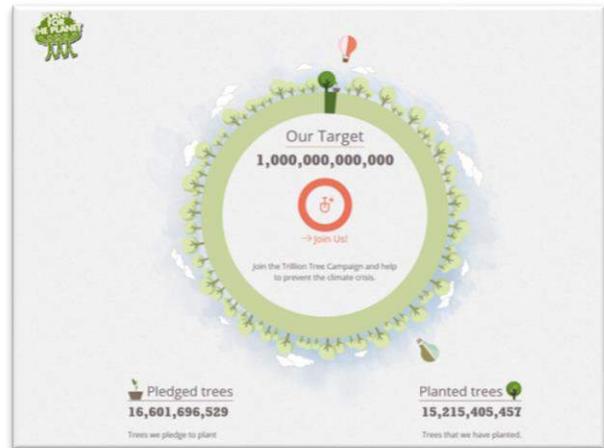


Every Person Has a Tree Counter

Plant-for-the-Planet is inspired by an idea that is older than the children: **Wangari Maathai, a Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize laureate**, with the cooperation of many women, planted 30 million trees in various African countries in 30 years. With this, she was able to provide women with their own income, self-confidence and independence. She also planted trees to fight soil erosion and ensure greater food security.

From this movement the global **Billion Tree Campaign** arose in 2006, supported by the United Nations under the **patronage of Wangari Maathai and HSH Prince Albert II**. Its original goal to plant one billion trees was already achieved within a few months. In December 2011, after more than 12 billion trees had been planted, **UN Environment handed over the official global tree counter to the children's and youth initiative Plant-for-the-Planet**. For the children, this was a historic moment, and it encouraged them. Since then, every government, business, and citizen reports to the children how many trees they want to plant or have already planted.



The goal of the Billion Tree Campaign is to encourage people, organizations and businesses worldwide to plant trees in order to prevent a global temperature increase of more than 2 °C. In order to achieve this, we not only have to reduce our CO₂ emissions, but also must find a way to store the emitted carbon long-term. **Trees are the best solution for this.**

In his speech in front of the UN General Assembly during the opening of the International Year of the Forests, Felix proposed a **new goal for the Billion Tree Campaign: a trillion trees**. Together, countless people have already contributed **more than 13 billion new trees**.

The tree counter is a gift to the world from the children's and youth initiative. Plant-for-the-Planet designed the tree counter **as an interactive online tool**. International competitions motivate people all around the world to plant trees. Every individual and every institution or business can register and thus make their commitment transparent, communicate very easily on social media, and call on others to plant as well.

The tree counter online: treecounter.org

Felix in front of the UN general assembly: video on youtu.be/tGLtkbaeuPl, photos on flic.kr/p/jAAZ6y and flic.kr/p/cTxw3f

Scientifically Established: There Is Space for a Trillion New Trees!

Admittedly: a trillion trees is a really big goal. But it is realistic. Dr. Thomas Crowther, a scientist at Yale University, for the cause of Plant-for-the-Planet, **counted the trees worldwide** over two-and-a-half years. This made him a target of ridicule from his colleagues until the prestigious Nature Magazine published his 2015 Study "Mapping Tree Density on a Global Scale". In November 2016, it ranked in 11th place on the Altmetric ranking list of the most watched scientific studies of the year on media and social media -- eight places above the discovery of water on Mars by NASA!

This study shows: 3,041 billion trees are growing on the earth today. Tom Crowther confirmed that there was space for **1 trillion additional trees on Earth**, without having to compete with agriculture or residential areas or plant them in deserts. On December 15, 2016, Plant-for-the-Planet planted the millionth tree on its own new planting area in Mexico. The plan is to have ten million there by 2020. "Then we only need 100,000 comparable reforestation initiatives," stated Felix, "and we might still be able to limit global warming to the 2 °C that we children view as vital for our survival.

More information: plant-for-the-planet.org/en/about-us/tree-study

Video: youtu.be/jqdOkXQngw8 and youtu.be/M--ltgriptc

Invented by Children: Germany's Most Successful Fair Trade Chocolate

The Change Chocolate is a fair trade product of the Plant-for-the-Planet children's and youth initiative. The history of the chocolate began with a resounding defeat. Now, it is a success story. 13 million bars have already been sold and, as a result, 3 million trees have been planted (as of February 2019). The Change Chocolate won the test by the German institute "Stiftung Warentest", it is the best milk chocolate among 25 chocolates tested. The name Change Chocolate is a promise: here, literally every single piece creates a positive change – from new trees to fair wages. The design of the Change Chocolate displays at a glance what percentage of the selling price is distributed into which project.



20 cents goes directly to the reforestation project in Mexico. **For every five bars sold, one tree is planted in our own planting area on the Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico.** This is made possible by distributors and manufacturers who forego their own profit. Plant-for-the-Planet uses ten cents to additional children; additional portions flow into climate neutral production at fair compensation to the producers and climate-friendly logistics.



The history of the Change Chocolate shows that the children from Plant-for-the-Planet do not surrender. In 2011, 13-year-old Felix Finkbeiner reached a low point in his commitment. At that time he spoke at a meeting in front of 350 chocolate producers from around the world. He asked the children's favorite industry to donate 0.01 percent of their revenue to Plant-for-the-Planet as a "Future Fee". In other words, one euro per ton of the chocolate luxury product. Not a single one answered. Saying "this is shocking," Felix left the stage in tears.

Anger became courage – and thus, in 2012 the children from Plant-for-the-Planet introduced their own chocolate onto the market. The market launch of the Change Chocolate was the most successful product launch of a fair trade chocolate of all time. It is produced in the same manner that the children envisage every product: fair trade certified and climate neutral.

The chocolate is available in Germany and Austria at EDEKA, Famila, Feneberg, Globus, Kaufland, REWE, sky, Tengelmann, Nah & Frisch und Kastner Abholmarkt. The organic Change Chocolate is available at Alnatura, dm, Müller Drogeriemarkt and tegut.

To introduce the Change Chocolate in other Countries, Plant-for-the-Planet always is in search for producers who would like to support the children.

More information (German): plant-for-the-planet.org/de/informieren/die-gute-schokolade

Photos: plant-for-the-planet.org/en/about-us/news/the-most-beautiful-pictures/3/en

Videos (German): youtube.com/playlist?list=PLST4jAQXiIHxchjgcFO3mOpb5RFtilf

The Change Chocolate's Social Media Channels (German)



facebook.com/Die.Gute.Schokolade



twitter.com/dieguteschoko



instagram.com/dieguteschokolade/

Plant-for-the-Planet Foundation HQ: Germany's First Energy-Plus Train Station



The first train arrived at the Uffing train station mid-morning on May 15, 1897. The Plant-for-the-Planet foundation bought the building 135 years later as **a new home for the children's and youth's initiative**. Thus, the future is catching on since the foundation, supported by numerous businesses, completely renovated the train station to optimize energy efficiency. With **Germany's first energy-plus train station**, Plant-for-the-Planet demonstrates how mobility, living, and working can be done in a sustainable manner: the train station was insulated with wood fiber, water is heated using geothermal and solar energy, and electricity is obtained through a 17 PV

module. Excess electricity is given away to the residents through two charging stations for electric cars and electric bikes.

As an energy-plus building, the train station produces more energy than it uses. Because of the wood insulation, it meets the passive-house standard and therefore has **a very low rate of energy consumption**. Additionally, a 17.75 kWp photovoltaic system on the train station rooftop generates electricity. The train station also draws solar power at night, since a battery in the basement stores the electricity from the photovoltaic system. Its 24 modules generate 11 kWh electricity. Warm water is obtained by a solar heating system on the rooftop and a geothermal installation: heat from the earth is conveyed by hoses spiraled into baskets that are placed under the surface of the ground next to the station building.

With the energy-plus train station, Plant-for-the-Planet continues a tradition. In 1924, the Walchensee power plant was brought into operation. From then on a number of railway lines were operated using clean electricity from hydroelectric power, including the Munich-Innsbruck line via Uffing. Travelers now can wait for the train in warmth in the area where the railway employees once operated the signal switches. **Free Wi-Fi makes the wait more attractive** and should encourage more people to switch from car to train. Travelers can monitor how much electricity the train station is producing and how much it is using on a screen in the waiting room.

Watch our energy production and consumption online: demo.solarlog-web.com/7799

Photos: plant-for-the-planet.org/en/about-us/news/the-most-beautiful-pictures/3/en