

# GAIIA

ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES FOR  
SCIENCE AND SOCIETY  
ÖKOLOGISCHE PERSPEKTIVEN FÜR  
WISSENSCHAFT UND GESELLSCHAFT

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## BIOECONOMY POLICIES ON THE WRONG TRACK

Do bioeconomy policies deliver on their promise of sustainable development opportunities? Unfortunately, no. In fact, as case studies in rural Europe show, the dominant growth paradigm of such policies tends to marginalize locally existing sustainable and socially embedded practices.



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## SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH ON HYDROGEN

Hydrogen is a key element in decarbonisation efforts, but its production is intertwined with hydrocarbon industries. To enable a socio-ecological transition towards hydrogen, it is imperative for social science research to identify and reshape existing fossil-based path dependencies.

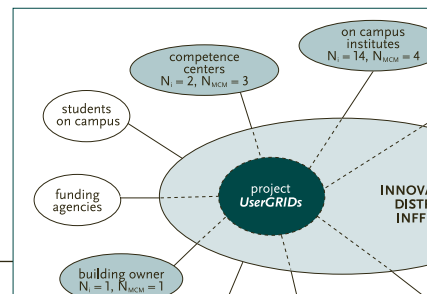


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## TOWARDS A CARBON-NEUTRAL UNIVERSITY DISTRICT

How to achieve carbon neutrality? In a multi-criteria mapping experiment, eleven experts assessed twelve different measures against 49 criteria. While most reject carbon capture, utilization and storage, the other options need to be widely discussed to enable a decision to be made.



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© Sanni Seppo

Self-sufficiency thrives even under high voltage, just not in the bioeconomy. In her series *A small paradise* (2017), Finnish photographer Sanni Seppo portrays the flourishing culture of dachas and urban gardening in Estonia and Finland. From the perspective of the Estonian bioeconomy strategy, the vibrant practice of growing one's own food in the Tartu region is labelled as an inefficient, backward niche practice, instead of acknowledging that it could be a positive example for participatory, bottom-up socio-ecological transformation (see pp. 219–224).