



Steffen Lange, Tilman
Santarius, Lina Dencik, Tomas
Diez, Hugues Ferreboeuf,
Stephanie Hankey, Angelika
Hilbeck, Lorenz M. Hilty, Mattias
Höjer, Dorothea Kleine, Johanna
Pohl, Lucia A. Reisch, Marianne
Ryghaug, Tim Schwanen,
Philipp Staab

Digital Reset

Redirecting Technologies for the Deep Sustainability Transformation

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Time seems out of joint. The world society has experienced a centennial pandemic, the global thermometer has displayed a sequence of hottest years on record, and Russia's war on Ukraine has shattered political order. Unsurprisingly, the economy is severely affected.

Governments worldwide hope that digital technologies can provide key solutions. Yet this report shows that digitalisation, in its current and mainstream form, is rather aggravating than solving many of the pressing social and environmental crises at hand. What is needed instead is a deep sustainability transformation that fundamentally reorganises the economy and all its sectors – agriculture, mobility, energy, buildings, industry, and consumption.

The Report »Digital Reset« shows how digital technologies can support the quest for such a deep sustainability transformation. The report provides a blueprint for the European Union on how to reconceptualise digitalisation so that it first and foremost contributes to achieving carbon neutrality, resource autonomy and economic resilience while supporting equity and fully respecting citizen's rights and privacy.

The report is the outcome of a two-year international science-policy dialogue, »Digitalization for Sustainability« (D4S), and presents an up-to-date comprehensive analysis of opportunities, risks and governance options regarding digitalization and sustainability.



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Steffen Lange

Steffen Lange erforscht als promovierter Volkswirt am Institut für ökologische Wirtschaftsforschung (IÖW), wie eine Wirtschaft ohne Wachstum – als Postwachstumsökonomie – stabil und nachhaltig gestaltet werden kann. Zudem ist er ehrenamtlich bei Organisationen und Initiativen wie dem »Konzeptwerk Neue Ökonomie«, »Common Future« und der »Zivil-Enquête Wachstum, Wohlstand, Lebensqualität« tätig, um nachhaltiges Wirtschaften Wirklichkeit werden zu lassen.

Steffen Lange is senior researcher at the Technical University in Berlin. He investigates the economics of a social-ecological transformation and the nexus of digital technologies, eco-social policies, and the role of economic growth in sustainable economies.



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Tilman Santarius

Tilman Santarius ist Professor für Sozial-Ökologische Transformation und Nachhaltige Digitalisierung an der TU Berlin und am Einstein Center Digital Futures. Er forscht zu den Themen Klimapolitik, Handelspolitik, nachhaltiges Wirtschaften, globale Gerechtigkeit und digitale Transformation. Ehrenamtlich engagiert er sich im Aufsichtsrat von Greenpeace Deutschland.

Tilman Santarius is Professor for Socio-Ecological Transformation and Sustainable Digitalization at the Einstein Center Digital Future at Technical University of Berlin. He has published on issues such as climate policy, global justice, globalization, sustainable consumption, and digital transformation.



Lina Dencik

Lina Dencik is the Co-Director of the Data Justice Lab at the University of Cardiff and Professor at Cardiff's School of Journalism, Media and Culture. She examines the interplay between media developments and social and political change, with a particular focus on governance, resistance, and the politics of data.



Tomas Diez

Tomas Diez is a founding partner and Executive Director of the Fab City Foundation and member of the board of trustees as well as senior researcher at IAAC Foundation. He examines the potentials of using digital fabrication tools to transform reality and how new technologies can change human living.

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Hugues Ferreboeuf

Hugues Ferreboeuf is an Entrepreneur, Manager and Consultant, who also works as Project Director at The Shift Project in France. He advises companies and public bodies on how to transform themselves in order to deal with the digital, energy, and societal transitions.

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Stephanie Hankey

Stephanie Hankey is the co-founder and Executive Director of Tactical Tech and a Loeb Fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. She is a practising designer, curator, educator and writer working at the intersection of design, technology, equity, and sustainability.

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Angelika Hilbeck

is a senior researcher at the Institute of Integrative Biology at ETH Zurich. She focusses on the areas of environmental risk assessment, ecological biosafety of genetically modified crops, and farmer-participatory agroecology research.

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Lorenz M. Hilty

Lorenz Hilty ist Professor für Informatik und Nachhaltigkeit an der Universität Zürich, Delegierter der Universitätsleitung für Nachhaltigkeit und Direktor des Zurich Knowledge Center for Sustainable Development (ZKSD). Er studierte Informatik und Psychologie an der Universität Hamburg, wo er sich 1997 habilitierte.

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Mattias Höjer

Mattias Höjer is Professor in Environmental Strategies and Futures Studies at KTH Royal Institute of Technology. He works on smart sustainable cities and futures studies for sustainable development with a focus on energy use, and climate change mitigation.

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Dorothea Kleine

Dorothea Kleine is Professor of Human Geography and Co-Director of the Institute for Global Sustainable Development at the University of Sheffield. She investigates sustainable human development, global justice, and the role of digital technologies in making progress towards these aims.



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Johanna Pohl

Johanna Pohl is a researcher at Technical University of Berlin. She investigates environmental effects of ICT-based services and develops basic approaches for a sustainable design of hardware and software.



Lucia A. Reisch

Lucia Reisch is EI-Erian Professor and Director of the EI-Erian Institute of Behavioural Economics & Policy at the University of Cambridge. She explores how insights from behavioral science can be used to promote sustainable consumption and production in digital consumer policy.

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