



Climate impact research, history, and board games - PIK Environmental Education

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Since the late 19th century scientific institutes are located on the Telegrafenberg (telegraph hill) in Potsdam near Berlin, Germany. The historical buildings and picturesque setting attract many visitors.

As the other institutes currently situated on the Telegrafenberg, the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) gives school classes the opportunity to combine the visit of the historical site with up to date information about climate research. Many members of PIK have actively and voluntarily supported schools by giving talks. Teaching material and two board games were developed, Keep Cool and Winds of Change, both dealing with politics and economics related to climate change.

Since 2005 a project especially dedicated to climate science education at PIK is funded by the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU). In this project PIK cooperates with a local school and the didactics department of Potsdam University. Four school courses started in 11. grade (age around 16 years) to be involved in the project. The geography and the IT courses build a webserver with teaching material focusing on PIK research topics. The history and the arts courses are working together on a permanent exhibition on Telegrafenberg.

In addition, Keep Cool is used to involve more students in the subject. In different schools, workshops were organized with students of the 11. grade. After playing the game, the students have the opportunity to reflect on the socio-economic issues concerning climate change.