

## Easy and effective double paying

After deciding to introduce a cap and quota system, for example with fair budgets of CO<sub>2</sub>, Footprints, airmiles or kilograms of meat, it will nowadays be much easier to implement such a system than before. Some people already made interesting proposals.

In 2008 Bert Vink, member of the Dutch Footprint Group, wrote an essay about Footprint quotas<sup>1</sup>. Fair distribution globally of CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions and land use was his objective, using a cap system that would be lowered year by year to reach a sustainable level of CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions and consumption; within the carrying capacity of planet Earth and to leave enough for future generations of comparable quality. Bert Vink did not publish at that time how to implement such a system. The Footprint budget was divided in 'Terras'.

Fair distribution was done in the past with for example post stamp-like coupons. With the present technology it will be very well possible to make it just a matter of double paying at once. When you go shopping after the introduction of a carbon or Footprint budget, you will be able to pay the Euros and a part of your budget at the same time with your iPhone. So it will become very easy and effective. This idea was recently published by Christian Felber in his Dutch book "Ware Winst" about the Economy for the Common Good.<sup>2</sup>

A Dutch design group developed in 2013 a system for the implementation of a quota system with double paying. They participated in a challenge of the city of Arnhem to make proposals for a sustainable economy in the year 2050.

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<sup>1</sup> "Balansgeld brengt economie op gezond spoor" by Bert Vink (2008), translation: "Balance money makes the economy healthy".

<sup>2</sup> "Ware Winst – Gemeen-goed-economy als wegwijzer" by Christian Felber (2017), publications in German about 'Die Gemeinwohl-Ökonomie' were published in Austria in 2010, 2012 and 2014.

The project is called 'Eco-Balance' and they also made an exhibition for the Dutch Design Week 2014: a diner table with many products and information all around. Each product has two prices: a Euro price and a Footprint price. The Footprint price accounts for the impact of the product on the Earth. The Euro budget is unlimited, while the Footprint is limited by the biocapacity of the planet and your yearly budget. These two prices will induce that people choose products and services which are competitive in Euros and Footprints. This will lead to a behavioural change with positive energetic, social, economic and spatial impacts. For example local production will become more attractive for citizens and companies because of their low Footprint price.

The starting point of "Eco-Balance" is a new tax form in which our global Footprint and money are calculated yearly. If you haven't used up your Footprint budget, you can sell a part of it. If you have used more than your budget, you have to buy more Footprints. On a global scale the Netherlands uses far more than a fair and sustainable share, so we have to buy extra Footprints from other countries. Developing countries have smaller global Footprints, so they might sell Footprints to the Netherlands. In this way there is compensation for too large global Footprints.

*Jan Juffermans, Dutch Footprint Group, October 2017*