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What can Emotions contribute to Sustainable Behavior?

People can feel fear of climate change, guilt about flying, compassion for victims of natural disasters, and be emotionally moved by climate protests. All these emotions predict pro-environmental behaviour. Thus, emotions seem to play an important role in sustainability. This symposium focuses on these links between emotions and sustainable behaviour. Eva Hofmann, Katja Corcoran and Kathrin Röderer present research that tested the role of emotions and related variables on household energy consumption. Tatjana Kwasny, Sarah Marth, Barbara Hartl and Petra Riefler focus on the effects of cognitive dissonance and negative emotions on meat consumption. In a related vein, Janet Kleber, Johanna Palcu, Martin Schreier, Chris Janiszewski and Anthony Salerno present intervention studies that reduced negative emotions about eating insect-based foods and the willingness to try these foods. These studies show that emotions predict energy and meat consumption. To shed light on the causal effects of emotions, Frank Eckerle presents a review and meta-analysis of the effects of emotion-based interventions on sustainable behaviour. Building on this evidence, Helen Landmann presents a model of affect generalisation that explains why emotions only sometimes directly influence behaviour. Taken together, these contributions advance our understanding of the potential of emotions for sustainable behaviour.

Are you currently an Early Career Researcher?

No

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