

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS

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Don't Hide Behind Bush Invitation to Seminar in Romania EU Policy Update



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Photo on the front page:

*- INFORSE-Europe exhibition at the EU Green Week 2005
Gunnar Boye Olesen,
INFORSE-Europe Coordinator
See article on p.4*

Don't Hide Behind the Bush

If we want a reasonable stable climate for our children and grandchildren, we cannot wait much longer for strong reductions of greenhouse-gas emissions. This is the message coming with increasing force from a growing number of scientists. The EU has responded with a commitment to work for a reduction of man-made climate change to 2°C, probably enough to avoid the more serious effects of climate change. Now the crucial question is how to realise this commitment in a world with increasing fossil-fuel consumption, driven by increasing wealth in many parts of the world combined with resistance from the leaders of the largest greenhouse-gas emitter, the USA, to any serious reductions of greenhouse-gas emissions. Naturally, some people are asking why they should have to work hard to reduce emissions when a country with a small fraction of the world's population emits substantially more than any other country and shows little interest in reducing its emissions.

There are several good reasons for action, in spite of the resistance of the USA. Some of the most important of these reasons are:

- New efficient and low-carbon technologies are quickly taken up globally. The examples are almost endless, from compact fluorescent lamps (developed in the USA and Europe, now mainly made and used in China) to windpower (developed in Europe, now increasingly used in India and the USA). If we continue the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency, the solutions we use will be used globally, not the least in the newly industrialised countries that currently have the largest growths in emissions.
- Unfortunately, the inefficient technologies are also copied globally, such as the current inefficient cars and transport structures. The more we allow these systems to continue, the more they will be copied globally, leading to increasing global emissions.

- Recent years' rising and unstable fossil fuel prices show the economic benefits of energy efficiency and of renewable energy. Unfortunately, official analyses from EU, IEA (International Energy Agency), etc. that compare costs of fossil and non-fossil technologies continue to use oil prices from the last century and artificially inflated estimates of the costs of changing to energy efficiency and to renewable energy, resulting in unrealistically high estimates of costs of reducing CO₂ emissions. This must be corrected.
- Employment generated by renewable energy and energy-efficiency renovations is substantially higher than that supported by fossil- and nuclear energies. As major problems of Europeans' economies are linked with unemployment, major increases in the uses of renewable energy and energy efficiency should be part of the solutions to European unemployment problems independent of the climate questions. Similarly, public transport contributes much more to rates of employment than does individual car use, and should be promoted for this reason.
- Many nations, including the 25 EU countries, are increasingly dependent on imported fossil fuels. For all of these countries, the costs of an energy price crises can easily do much more harm than any greenhouse-gas reduction plan.

Let us hope that the EU countries and many others will follow a path to stabilise the climate with strong and concerted actions for energy efficiency and renewable energy, because of climate change as well as for many other reasons.

INFORSE's visions for sustainable energy development with renewable energy, energy efficiency, and efficient public transport show examples that point in this way.

Gunnar Boye Olesen
Editor

European Sustainable Energy NGO Seminar, Romania

September 13-18, 2005

The seminar will bring together NGOs involved in sustainable energy politically and practically from Eastern and Western Europe.

The current program includes sessions on successes with sustainable energy, current developments in the energy markets, and national as well as regional energy policies.

Part of the seminar will be devoted to workshops on issues such as campaigning for sustainable energy, following EU policies, promoting education in sustainable energy, developing visions for sustainable energy, and training/capacity-building for NGO's. The issues of the workshops will be decided by the participants.

INFORSE-Europe's 2005 Annual Meeting will be held during the seminar.

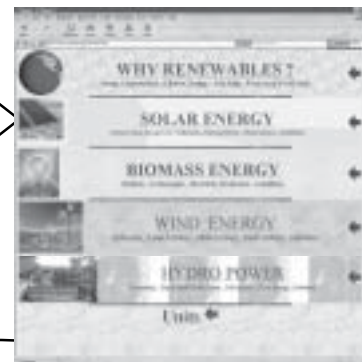
Venue: Solar Energy Institute, Black Sea coast, Constanta in Romania.

Fee: 140 Eur, (incl. food, accommodation and travel from and to Bucharest.)

Limited grants for participation and travel reimbursement available for INFORSE-Europe member organisations.

Organiser: Earth Friends, Romania, and INFORSE-Europe.

Read more and download the registration form
at www.inforse.org/europe or e-mail:
ove@inforse.org



New DIERET Course

Starts! - A new round of Distance Education on Sustainable Energy will be conducted in the second half of 2005. In this round, priority will be given to people involved with NGOs in Europe.

The course is organised as follows:

- You read the material (downloaded from the web), and you answer the questions received.
- We check your answers, and if your answers are correct, you receive a diploma.

The deadline to sign up: August 15, 2005.

The course will begin in September and finish in November.

Application form:

www.inforse.org/europe



Successful European Energy Policy Seminar in Bruxelles

INFORSE-Europe held a European energy policy seminar in Bruxelles - June 15, 2005 - in cooperation with EREF and EUFORES*.

More than 30 people attended the seminar, which included presentations and discussions on European renewable energy targets; use of structural funds for energy efficiency and renewable energy; harmful subsidies; renewable energy in the internal electricity market; the possibilities for an EU-wide system for feed-in tariffs for renewable electricity; problems with future EU research funds for renewable energy; and new versions of sustainable energy visions for EU.

All presentations are now available online at www.inforse.org/europe.



Marc Timmer from EUFORES (left) and Gunnar Boye Olesen from INFORSE with the Seminar's brochure at the Green Week in June 2005.



EREF:

European Renewable Energy Federation, the federation of renewable energy users
www.eref-europe.org

EUFORES:

European Forum for Renewable Energy Sources, a forum for parliamentarians and other citizens for renewable energy.
www.eufores.org

See article on INFORSE-Europe's exhibition at the EU Green Week on page 4

Interactive INFORSE-Europe Exhibition at EU Green Week'05 , Brussels, Belgium

INFORSE-Europe got the possibility to exhibit among the 60 exhibitors at the EU Green Week.

Several hundreds of the 4000 conference participants stopped at our stall. People had fun with the Quiz, asked, and learned about us.

Among the visitors were: People from the EU Commission, NGOs, municipalities, invited conference speakers, and students from Brussels.



The Sun shone on:
Seminars,
Strategy,
School,
Successes,
Sen. (Sustainable Energy News)

What are we doing?

- See our brochure explaining INFORSE-

Europe's activities, and includes the list of the 67 NGO members.



The INFORSE-Europe team was:
Judit Szoleczky,
Gunnar B. Olesen,
Guillermo M. Cenizo.

How Much Do You Really Know?

- Test Yourself ! Quiz - 12 Questions - 5 minutes

Many chose to fill out our Quiz, which was fun! :-)

Photo: Judit Szoleczky tells the right answers to Johannes Urpelainen from FoE Finland.



More information:

- INFORSE-Europe Exhibition, the Quiz with answers, posters, etc.
<http://www.inforse.org/europe/GreenWeek05.htm>

- INFORSE-Europe activities:
See this issue of Sustainable Energy News, and www.inforse.org/europe

- EU Green Week
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/greenweek/>

100 % renewables by 2050? Do you think that it is realistic?

See the graphs of the INFORSE Vision !

It raised high interest, and discussion, and a television featured it.

Photo: Gunnar B. Olesen shows the graphs on the computer screen.

Seeking Interactive School material? Look and Add !

The Spanish Television even made an interview with us about our school resource database, where we review educational materials available on the internet in English. Guillermo showed our collection of Spanish links on the computer screen. New links are welcome !

Do you need to know more? Take a free Online Course!

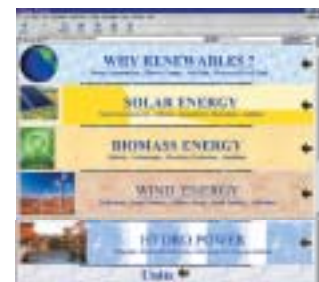
The DIERET Material with its 300 pages and 450 graphs, was possible to see via the computer. Many learned about the course.

Read about DIERET on page #3.



Which country are you from? Do we have members or contacts from your country in our online database?

The database includes 800 organisations. Many new and known contacts were found, and corrections were made.



INFORSE-Europe's EU Policy update

Compiled by Gunnar Boye Olesen
INFORSE-Europe Coordinator



New EU Climate Targets

At the EU prime ministers' meeting in March, they agreed to aim for a 15-30% cut in greenhouse-gas emissions by 2020 for industrialised countries, and confirmed the commitment of EU countries to work for a limit of global warming to 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

The decision was made with the limitation that it is "subject to future cost-benefit analyses and international negotiations". In practice, the countries also have to decide whether the target should be 15%, 30%, or something in-between. The prime ministers did not confirm the EU environmental ministers' proposal of reducing greenhouse-gas emissions by 60-80% by 2050; but, with their commitment to limit global warming to 2°C above pre-industrial levels, it is hard to see how the goal can be met with lesser measures.

The higher end of the reductions, 30% (and 80% by 2050) is, according to the scientists, the minimum required to limit global warming to 2°C, and that only if applied throughout the industrialised world.

EU Parliament Agrees on Targets for Efficiency

On June 7, the EU Parliament agreed to ask for stronger targets for energy efficiency in the proposed "Directive on energy end-use efficiency and energy services". They asked for progressively increasing targets of 1%/year for the first 3 years (2006-2008), 1.3%/year for the next three years, and 1.5%/year for the following three years. In addition, they asked for higher targets for the public sector, starting with 1.5%/year. The Parliament also proposed that the targets should be mandatory.

Environmental NGOs and the energy-efficiency industry had asked for higher targets, similar to the INFORSE-Europe position of 2-3%/year. This is what is needed to use the full cost-effective energy efficiency potentials, and if the efficiency gains are to lead to reductions in energy consumption.

The EU energy ministers will discuss the targets at their next meeting on June 28. Unfortunately, the indication is that they will propose a lower target: 1%/year for the first six years, no special target for the public sector, and no mandatory targets - only indicative. Because of the disagreements between the Parliament and the EU countries, the proposal is expected to go for a second reading with additional negotiations in the second half of 2005.

On one issue there seems to be agreement: energy-efficiency targets are defined as targets for the reduction in energy consumption resulting from energy-efficiency improvement activities.

South Eastern European Energy Markets Postponed

A common electricity and gas market for the Balkans, following the rules of the EU internal energy market, has been under discussion for some time; but the agreement is delayed and it will not be signed this spring as the EU presidency had hoped.



Green Paper on Energy Efficiency

The Commission is preparing a Green Paper on energy efficiency that will be launched this June. It is expected that the paper will propose to extend the buildings efficiency directive to cover existing buildings as well as new initiatives for energy efficiency labels.

Trans-European Networks - new guidelines

The new guidelines for priority projects for electricity and gas are still being discussed in the EU Parliament. The EU energy ministers are expected to reach a common agreement at their meeting on June 28. Unfortunately, neither the Parliament nor the energy ministers have followed the environmental priorities proposed by INFORSE-Europe and other NGOs, nor have they agreed to the proposals for reducing environmentally harmful state aid that is creating unfair competition on the electricity and gas markets.

Ecodesign – Almost Agreed

The ecodesign directive that will provide a framework for energy-efficiency standards is in practice agreed, while the formal decision is expected in July, almost two years after the proposal was launched by the EU Commission.

Biomass and Heating

The Commission is preparing a strategy for biomass use, responding to the slow development of biomass in EU compared with prior expectations. The strategy is expected to be unveiled in the second half of 2005, and is expected to include actions to promote biomass for heating.

Biomass and other renewables for heating were also addressed by two initiatives for a renewable energy heating directive:

- in a joint statement released on April 7, more than 40 NGOs and renewable-energy industry organisations called for a directive and targets supporting renewable energy for heating and cooling.
- the EU Parliament will make its own initiative report on the issue. On June 7, Mechtel Rothe (MEP, Socialist) announced that she will be rapporteur for the initiative. It is expected that she will present a draft report to the Parliament Committee responsible for energy policy in Autumn 2005.

EU Policy update
continued from the previous page

More Biogas and Record Biofuels Increase in 2004

In the 25 EU countries, the production of biogas, including landfill gas, increased by 9% from 2003 to 2004 according to the Biogas Barometer from Eur'Observ'ER project. The largest increase is in the UK, which is also a leader in the field, mainly because of its extensive use of landfill gas. Second in biogas production is Germany. The total production, 180 PJ in 2004, is still far from the potential of 8-900 PJ. If the trend continues, the production in 2010 will only be 60% of the Renewable Energy White Paper target of 630 PJ.

Use of biofuels is growing faster in EU, 26% from 2003 to 2004, where the production was 2.4 mill. tons, equivalent to 120 PJ. More than 40% of the biofuels market is in Germany and almost 80% of the biofuel is biodiesel. For biofuels, the current growth rate will only lead to a production in 2010 of 50% of the target of 750 PJ that is included in the White Paper and in the biofuels directive; but this directive enters into force only this year, and it is likely that this will strengthen development.

More information:
www.eufores.org

Solar Thermal Catching Up

With 1.5 mill. m² of glass-covered solar thermal collectors installed in 2005 in the 25 EU countries, this market has increased for the second year in row. If the market growth of 2002-2004 of 22%/year continues, there will be about 36 mill. m² of solar thermal collectors installed in 2010, of which more than 80% will be glass-covered. This is, unfortunately, just 30% of the expectations of the White Paper for Renewable Energy and a tiny fraction of the potential of this technology. EU's part of global solar thermal installation is only 9%. The Chinese part is 78% (and the rest of the world's 13%). The current solar thermal energy production is about 25PJ in EU.

More information:
www.estif.org, and
www.eufores.org

Hungary: Biomass „boom”

By Zsolt Kazai, Renewable energy program coordinator,
Energy Club Environmental Association, Hungary.

Hungary has a non-ambitious target for 2010 to produce 3.6% of its electricity from renewables. Even so, huge projects have been undertaken in the past two years based on wood energy. The total capacity now is 225 MW, which requires ~800,000 t/year wood-chips from forestry. There are debates about these projects regarding their efficiency, as well as about their environmental and economic sustainability.

The common features of these projects are that they are realized as Joint Implementation investments and that these power plants were all formerly coal-fired, with high CO₂ emissions. Therefore, they were forced to change their technologies to run on renewable biomass, to avoid closing down.

Hungary has a huge potential energy supply in the form of its different types of biomass.

For instance, there are almost one million hectares of arable land, that will be taken out of cultivation in the near future. Some of it could be used for producing energy crops or energy forests. Strategies are being discussed to use this potential to best advantage.

The Energy Club Hungary, with other Hungarian NGOs, recognized the potential of biomass to increase the use of renewable energy sources; they recognized the possible environmental barriers as well.

Consequently, the Energy Club organized regional forums where – with the help of experts – local decision-makers and farmers were given information about the environmental, financial, and legislative aspects of biomass potential and energy plantations. These events were held early in 2005 in two regions where the highest biomass potential is available and where the lowest GDP is produced. The Energy Club also published a handbook about the crucial points of planting energy crops or forests (See the front page photo).

The question of rational use of biomass as an energy source needs more discussion among experts, decision-makers, farmers and NGOs in the future to create the economic and environmental conditions for rational use of biomass potential in Hungary. The Energy Club started to work on this issue with WWF Hungary and other NGOs.

We also have consulted foreign experts, NGOs from neighbouring countries. The latest meeting was on the 19-20th of May in Olomouc (CZ), where NGOs discussed the question of barriers of spreading renewables. This meeting was organised by Hnutí Duha (CZ), and various NGOs participated from the four “Visegrád-countries”. The participants decided to facilitate the exchange of information among the organisations in the region and to initiate writing a resolution on environmentally friendly biomass utilization.



The team of Energy Club Hungary showing Interactive Climate Posters at the EU Green Week '05. The posters are also available in English, and downloadable from the internet
See article on the Green Week on page 4.
On the photo (from left to right): Rita Szántó, Ada Ámon, Nelli Tóth, Péter Kardos.

More information:
kazai@energiaklub.hu
www.energiaklub.hu

Greece:

“Don’t change the climate, change policies!”

By Haris Konstantatos, *MEDITERRANEAN S.O.S., Greece.*

Greece in the Kyoto period: (Non) business as usual.

Greece is expected to exceed the +25% target for the Kyoto Protocol in 2008-2012 and maybe reach +35-45%. The main polluter is “DEH”, the national power company, responsible for approximately 55% of emissions. Energy production is over-dependent on coal (67%) and oil (17%). Moreover, the trend for electricity demand is expected to rise by more than 3% annually, as in recent years.

The country has the obligation to reach 20,1% of renewable electricity production by 2010, but presently the wind-generated electrical capacity is extremely low, only 6,5% (approx. 375MW) of the total. Some of the serious obstacles to the development are administrative / market inflexibilities and inadequacy as well as non-cooperation of distribution networks.

The members of Ecologists Greece and Greek Ecologists Without Borders, made a common anti-war ecological call in March 2005.

They say: NO for the oil-economy!

NO for other blood for oil!

NO for a new race of nuclear!



*Photos from the demonstrations in March 2005
<http://homepages.pathfinder.gr/ecologists>*

There have been delays and shortcomings in the design and implementation of coherent strategies for combating climate change in Greece. The issue is low on the public opinion agenda, there is a lack of fiscal/tax incentives for energy-savings and renewables, and little, if any, promotion of more environmentally friendly means of production, transportation and consumption, such as trains, tramways, etc.

The lack of efficient climate policies for Greece will have serious negative environmental, social, and economic impacts in the near future. Some sectors of Greek industry will be forced to buy extra carbon credits to pay for polluting, while adaptation to a quicker pace of actions and future international/EU climate-related policies will be more difficult.



MedSOS is an environmental and social NGO, active since 1990. It supports the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, through the promotion of energy-saving methods and renewable sources. It became a member of INFORSE in 2004.

The latest magazine MedSOS published has the theme on renewable energy. More: www.medsos.gr, haris@medsos.gr.

Russia:

“Energy & Us” Competition

For the 2nd year, at the end of April, the competition “Energy and Us” took place in Apatity in the far north of Russia.

Pupils and teachers from all educational organizations of the city of Apatity and five other towns took part in this action. The competition was organised by activists of GAIA, specialists of a scientific centre, and of a newly created public energy efficiency centre. About 200 works were presented. The categories were: literature works – tales, stories, poems; art works – drawings and placards, projects, scientific investigations. The competition revealed that teachers and pupils of the secondary schools are not so well educated in the subject of energy saving.

Thus, a plan is being made for an educational seminar in 2006.



One of the posters: An old lamp is speaking with a new energy-efficient lamp using the words of a famous tale written by Pushkin.

Contact: GAIA, Apatity, Murmansk, Elena Kruglikova, gaia@aprec.ru.

NGOs Want Decommissioning

In Russia, NGOs from the regions of Moscow, St.Petersburg and Murmansk are co-operating on the joint project, “Decommission of old nuclear reactors”. Old reactors cause some of the most serious problems in Russia as well as in other parts of the world. All aspects of these problems are in the focus: technical, technological, financial, and political. The main goal is to make the discussion concerning decommission transparent to the society, to raise this problem to the level of open political discussion. On April 26, the 19th anniversary of Chernobyl, the project’s website was presented during a press conference held in Murmansk.

Contact: www.decomatom.org.ru.

Anti-Nuke Camp, August ‘05

On August 4-11, 2005, the 6th Russian Anti-nuclear Camp will take place near Ekaterinburg. Ecodefense invites activists from environmental and other non-governmental groups to submit applications for participation in the camp. The camp will focus on dangerous radioactive waste import to Russia, access to information etc. Registration until July 10. 2005.

Contact: Ecodefense, www.antiatom.ru, e-mail: ecodefense@gmail.com.

Moldova:



Successful Energy Savings

In Moldova, the opportunities for very cost-effective energy savings have been proven by a number of new demonstration projects and trainings.

In a dairy, insulation of roof and cold storages had a payback period of less than two years, while in a chicken farm, energy efficiency combined with a biogas plant had a payback time of less than 0.6 years.

Even better were improvements in the production of foam concrete, where the investment was paid back in less than three months with savings in energy and materials.

All this is part of the work of CPEE (Cleaner Production & Energy Efficiency Centre), an INFORSE member.

The activities of this projects were supported by EU’s TACIS program.

Information:

CPEE, Moldova, att. Petr Comarov, e-mail: petr.comarov@cpee.md
<http://www.cpee.md>.

Wales: NGO Network Launched

By Amanda Roll Pickering, SEW / CAT; Wales UK.

The founding members of the new network Sustainable Energy Wales (SEW) include 2 INFORSE members: West Wales Eco Centre, The Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), and Awel Aman Tawe, Carmarthenshire Energy Agency, Conwy Energy Agency, Mid Wales Energy Agency, South East Wales Energy Efficiency Advice Centre,

Members came together at CAT on Thursday, 17th March, 2005 to launch their new network to provide renewable-energy advice.

Sustainable Energy Wales is a single network to encourage the development of renewable energy for householders, community and micro businesses across Wales. Members all belong to not-for-profit organisations already working in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The members believe that the objectives of SEW cover many activities which are timely and are clearly needed to assist in the achievement of Welsh targets for the reduction of CO₂ emissions, the elimination of fuel poverty, and improvements in health.

The creation of a single network to encourage the development of renewable energy for householders, community and micro businesses across Wales is welcome as it will enhance and strengthen the valuable role of the existing Welsh Energy organisations. This development will undoubtedly be of great help in meeting Welsh social and environmental targets along with those of our own organisation.

More info:
info@cat.org.uk.

amanda.rollpickering@cat.org.uk.



Cyprus: Solar-powered Crushing to Recycle Cans

By Dr. Erzat Erdil, Environment and Energy Association, Cyprus, Turkey

The project "Recycle a Can to Repel Cancer", run by the Environment and Energy Association with support from the UNDP/UNOPS, involves crushing of soft-drink metal cans for recycling, with profits going towards local cancer research.

A well organized collection and recycling of these cans recover part of the energy-effort cost, and reduce environmental hazards.

An additional great attraction of the project is that only solar energy is used in all stages of the process. Photovoltaic modules provides electricity.

The campus of Eastern Mediterranean University at Famagusta was chosen as

the pilot area where, presently, large numbers of metal cans, about 8000 per day, are dumped into rubbish bins. Mostly, the cans are manufactured using tin (having a magnetic property) or an aluminium alloy (non-magnetic). They are separated in the "Separator Unit" and fed into the "Crushing Unit" where the volume is reduced to one-fifth to increase packing density.

Info: erzat.erdil@emu.edu.tr

Photo: Both units are on wheels so that demonstrations can be made at different locations, especially at schools to help further educate the youngsters regarding needs for clean environment and sustainable energy.



Czech Republic: Solar-Trac Seeking Cooperation

Max Vittrup Jensen, PermaLot, Czech Republic

The Solar Trac is a solar-powered tractor. It is a weeding or planting platform as well as a light transport vehicle, providing lower running cost, less noise, no pollution, and a better work environment.

The Czech PermaLot group behind the Solar Trac is very interested in starting a cooperative effort to produce the Solar Trac in the Czech Republic. It also seeks similar cooperation with NGOs in developing countries.

It is powered by 8x100-watt built-in PV panels in the roof. The initial SolarTrac was developed for organic agriculture in Denmark and has been in use for 3 years without charge from the grid. Presently, the Solar Trac is used in PermaLot's permaculture orchard, which produces about 25 tons of apples every year.



More information:
PermaLot, Podolí
3, Bouzov, Czech
Republic.
max@permalot.org,
www.permalot.org,



PermaLot is a Czech NGO established in 2000, and also organising summer camps.

Uruguay: CEUTA Solar Workshops

By Gerardo Honty, Uruguayan Centre on Appropriate Technology (CEUTA) INFORSE member organisation.

During 2004, CEUTA developed 12 workshops on solar energy in different towns of the countryside in Uruguay. About 500 people participated in these workshops, which aimed to teach how to build solar stoves and ovens, solar water heaters, and solar dryers. Later on, CEUTA kept in contact with participants by telephone to monitor their experiences.

On March 11-12, the National Meeting on Solar Energy took place, bringing together 30 people of those involved in the previous workshops who had built their own solar equipment. The main goals of the meeting were to allow participants to exchange insights, to plan future ac-



tivities, and to exhibit solar self-made equipment to the general public in front of the City Hall of Montevideo, the capital of the country. Equipment such as box-ovens, panel- and parabolic-kitchens, water-heaters, and dryers were presented at this exhibition.

At the same time, a conference with experts on this field was taking place. Authorities of the public electric utility, specialists from the National University, and stakeholders participated in this event and gave their vision of the possibilities for solar thermal energy in Uruguay.



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Uganda: Energy Efficiency - a Necessary Step



Timothy Byakola,
Climate and Development
Initiatives
(CDI), Uganda,
INFORSE regional
coordinator

Scenes of local people scampering to disconnect illegal power connections on seeing the red-coloured UEDCL* motorcycles are a common feature in many small suburbs around Kampala City.

With heavy funding cuts, privatisation, and a government regulatory policy aimed at the private sector taking over provision of energy services, power tariffs in Uganda have gone up more than three times since 2001, and they are still increasing.

Uganda's power demands are estimated at 330 MW, but drought conditions reduce the operational capacity to 215 MW, causing rampant load sheddings. The country is now forced to import between 10 to 15 megawatts from neighbouring Kenya during peak time. This importation translates to an additional cost to the power sector that is estimated to be 17.9 billion Uganda shillings (8.5 mill. Eur) per year. The regulatory authority argues that these imports are responsible for the upward adjustments in power tariffs.

Energy demands in Uganda have tremendously increased because of the economic growth rate, which is currently riding at above 6%.

To complement present generation deficits, a massive 50-MW thermal generator was commissioned in May of this year (2005). But the thermally produced power is substantially more expensive than hydropower.

With the current rising energy costs, it has now become necessary that consumers take efficient utilization of energy more seriously.

Consumers' lack of awareness of efficient technologies on the market, the relatively high initial costs of the technologies, and limited expertise in energy management are some of the barriers that have been identified to efficient energy management.

Therefore, to create more public interest in efficient energy utilization, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development and other partners organized a national event, the "Energy Efficient Week", with the theme "Save Energy Save Money". The campaign started on 23-28 May 2005.

Activities of the week included:

- a one-week exhibition by dealers of energy-efficient technologies;
- a one-hour program by the Hon. Minister and Commissioner for Energy Resources Department on Uganda Television;
- a series of newspaper articles sensitizing consumers to efficient use of energy; and
- the development of information materials by NGOs.

Aside from the above initiatives, there is need to conduct training sessions on energy efficiency and audits among energy users like industries, institutions, hotels and commercial buildings.

In conclusion, it is necessary to implement strategies that increase awareness among communities on energy efficiency issues with a view to enabling better energy management and to creating cost savings. It is also important to focus on the education of local governments and their staff as well as of other service providers who are responsible for local area budget allocations and monitoring.

* UEDCL is Uganda
Electricity Distribution
Company Limited.

More info: CDI, P.O.Box. 8849
Kampala, Uganda. Ph: +256 41342685
acs@starcom.com, www.inforse.org/africa





Nigeria:

Sent by Eco Conscious Developments (ECODEV) - an INFORSE member in Nigeria - a volunteer based NGO founded in 1998.

ECODEV is aiming to introduce sustainable energy in Nigeria.

In 2004/05, the program director of ECODEV, Tony Okpokam, had the opportunity to be trained in matters of wind energy at the Institute for Sustainable Energy Technologies (ISET) at the university of Kassel-Germany. The training brings to ECODEV the necessary technical skills to research, plan and implement renewable energy technologies in our corner of the globe.

In November, 2004, ECODEV participated in the international conference on renewable energy in Nigeria. The Conference was organised by One Sky a Canadian based NGO, which recently formed a Canadian Renewable Energy



Photo: Tony Okpokam from ECODEV Nigeria climbing up in a wind mill tower in Germany as part of his training.

Alliance (CanREA). The conference culminated in the creation of Cross River renewable energy network, of which Bassey Oben, ECODEV representative, is on the coordinating committee.

More information: ECODEV, email: ecodevelopments@yahoo.com www.ecodev.freeservers.com, One Sky att. Nikki Skuce, e-mail: nikki@onesky.ca, Read about the conference at www.onesky.ca/energetics.html.

South Asia:

South Asian NGO Project for Poverty-Reducing Sustainable Energy Solutions

This project, which is being organized by INFORSE South Asia, is now operational, with a successful inception meeting in April, a website (see below), and the first report (for Nepal) on the national situation already available on the website.

The report includes a national scenario of energy use, national policies, and constraints for promotion of sustainable energy use.

The work will continue with the finalizing of similar descriptions of the other countries involved (India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka), identification of organizations for capacity-building, and development of manuals for use of sustainable energy for poverty reduction.

The participating organisations are: INSEDA in India, CRT in Nepal, IDEA in Sri Lanka, Grameen Shakti in Bangladesh. and OVE in Denmark.

The project is supported by Danish Small Grant Facility for NGOs.

Read the development of the project at <http://www.inforse.org/asia>

Events

August 4-11, 2005

6th Russian Anti-Nuclear Camp, Ekaterinburg

Info: <http://www.antiatom.ru>

Article on page no. 7

August 16 - 21, 2005

INFORSE/AGREE.NET Seminar, Solta, Croatia

Info: Green Action, daniel@zelena-akcija.hr

<http://www.inforse.org/europe>

INFORSE-Europe Event.

Article in issue #48 page no. 4

September 12-18, 2005

INFORSE-Europe Seminar, Romania

Info: Earth Friends Romania, INFORSE-Europe@earthfriends@rdslink.ro, ove@inforse.org

<http://www.inforse.org/europe>

INFORSE-Europe Event.

Article on page no. 3

September, 19 - 23, 2005

"Renewable Energy of the XXI Century" Crimea, Ukraine

Info: renewable@ukr.net, Institute for Renewable Energies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

November 14-16, 2005

The First Central-Asian Conference on Renewable Energy, Karaganda, Kazakhstan

Info: ECOMuseum, REA, INFORSE-Europe@bc_conference@nursat.kz, ove@inforse.org

www.ecomuseum.freenet.kz

<http://www.inforse.org/europe>

INFORSE-Europe Event.

Article on page issue #48 page no. 4

November 28-December 9, 2005

Climate Convention COP 11, Montreal, Canada

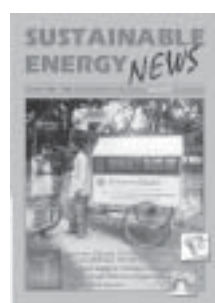
<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

South Africa: 50% Renewable Energy by 2050

In April 2005, Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Project of Earthlife Africa launched the independent study: *'The Potential of Renewable Energy in South Africa'*.

It looks at long-term prospects for energy development, on a time-scale consistent with the anticipated lifespan of major investments currently being planned, e.g., thermal power plants. It explores the potential for developing local industries in renewable energy technologies (RETs). The study factors in potential high rates of economic growth and moderate assumptions regarding energy efficiency. This study clearly demonstrates the credibility of a target of obtaining 50% of the country's energy from renewable resources by 2050, however unlikely this may appear under current market conditions (and lack-lustre policy implementation). Should greater efficiency be achieved, there can be further reduction of the use of fossil fuels.

Earthlife Africa is member of INFORSE. Read more about the study and the political processes that the report is part of at: www.earthlife.org.za/seccp/



ERRATA:

In Sustainable Energy News Nr. 48, we highlighted Grameen Shakti, but the contact details were missing.

Grameen Shakti is an INFORSE member organisation.

Please see the missing details:

Grameen Shakti

Address: Grameen Bank Bhaban

Mirpur-2, 1216 Dhaka

Bangladesh.

Ph +880 -2 9004081

Fax: +880 -2 9004314 Ext 103

Email: g_shakti@grameen.net

Web: www.gshakti.com

Air Pollution & Climate Series

#16. To Phase Out Coal

By Fredrik Lundberg

Coal is a major contributor to greenhouse gases and to other pollutants. About 37% of the world's emissions of carbon dioxide come from coal. This study presents the structure of the coal industry, its environmental effects, and the possibilities of phasing out the use of coal.

42 pages, 2003,

ISBN 91-97369160



#17. Atmospheric Emissions from Large Point Sources in Europe

By Mark Barrett, SENCO, Sustainable Environment Consultants.

This report presents the worst and the best fossil-fuelled power plants in Europe ranked according to their emissions. It shows that a large number of plants already in operation have flue-gas pollutant concentrations much lower than limits values set for the new post-2003 installations in the EU large combustion plants directive.

There can therefore be no doubt as to the possibility of achieving emission levels, by the use of conventional technology.

58 pages, 2004, ISBN 91-97369187



#18. Status & Impacts of the German Lignite Industry

By Jeffrey H. Michel, bachelor degree in Humanities and Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Lignite is the main domestic fuel resource in Germany. This study includes a historical treatment of German lignite use and discusses many of the hidden cost involved – excessive greenhouse gas emissions, depletion of groundwater resources, and destruction on hundreds of villages.

95 pages, 2004, ISBN 91-97369195



Copies can be obtained free of charge.

All above published by the Swedish NGO Secretariat on Acid Rain
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297 pages, 2005,

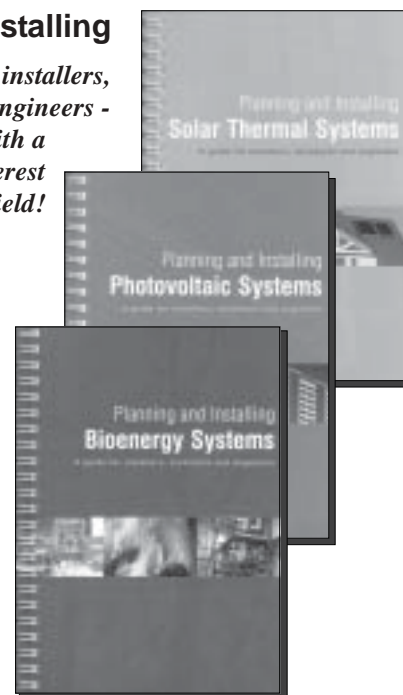
ISBN 1844071251

Photovoltaic Systems

£ 65.00,

367 pages, 2005,

ISBN 1844071316



- Reviews of the key features of different technologies.
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- International legal framework and data on selected regional, national and international support programmes are provided.
- Review of relevant simulation tools and data on selected support programs.

The guides were prepared by the German Solar Energy Society (DGS), Ecofys, 2005.

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8-12 Camden High Street, London, NW1 0JH, UK.
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Understanding Renewable Energy Systems

By Volker Quaschning, professor of renewable energy systems at Berlin University of Applied Sciences.

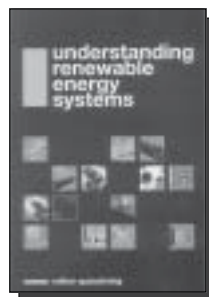
This book explores the technical principles of renewable energy systems and it also deals with problems of energy industry. The topics are treated bringing together mathematics, engineering, climate studies and economics.

The CD-ROM includes a variety of specialist simulation software and detailed figures from the book.

It is for students of renewable energy at universities or technical colleges as well as scientists and engineers in research and industry.

33,90 €, 290 pages, 173 figures, 81 tables, with CD-ROM
ISBN: 1-84407-128-6, 2005

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e-mail: earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk, www.earthscan.co.uk



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Scientists Warn on Climate; Bush not Concerned

There is not much new in the fact that US president George Bush is expected to block or water down any progressive plans proposed by the UK and Russia for the G8 summit in July. However, the attempts to persuade the US government to change to a more sustainable position have included a number of remarkable initiatives, including:

- An unprecedented joint statement issued by the leading scientific academies of the world. The national academies of science for all the G8 countries (including the US), along with those of Brazil, India and China, have warned that governments must no longer procrastinate on what is widely seen as the greatest danger facing humanity. The national academies warn that even if greenhouse gas emissions could be stabilised at existing levels, the climate would continue to change as it slowly responds to the extra carbon dioxide added to the atmosphere.
- The president of the Royal Society, Britain's national academy of sciences, lambasted President Bush for ignoring his own scientists by withdrawing from the Kyoto treaty. "The current US policy on climate change is misguided. The Bush administration has consistently refused to accept advice of the US National Academy of Sciences ... " the president, Lord May, said. He added "Never before have we faced such a global threat. And if we do not begin effective action now it will be much harder to stop the runaway train as it continues to gather momentum."

More: see http://www.insnet.org/ins_headlines.rxml?cust=2&id=1234.

Information from "www.climateark.org", and the Independent; see <http://www.climateark.org/articles/reader.asp?linkid=42624>.

International Energy Affairs

The energy sessions of the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) in April 2006 and April 2007 (CSD14 and CSD15) are coming closer, and governments as well as NGOs such as INFORSE will focus on these global discussions. INFORSE will cooperate on common positions and joint initiatives with other NGO networks such as CURES (Citizens United for Renewables and Sustainability) and the NGO Energy Caucus.

The follow-up from the Bonn Renewables2004 conference is centred on the Renewable Energy Policy Network (REN21). The REN21 steering committee held its first meeting in Copenhagen in the first days of June, continuing the start-up phase of the network. It is supported by the German government and its secretariat is expected to be in Paris, probably with the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP).

REN21 will follow the CSD energy process, and is preparing inputs for CSD14.

The Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition (JREC) that was started at the World Summit for Sustainable Development 2002 now has 88 countries as members and a small secretariat with one person in the EU Commission's General Directorate for Environment. It will also follow the CSD process.

Both REN21 and JREC are expected to have high-level/ministerial meetings at the "Beijing Conference on Renewable Energy 2005", November 7-8. Unfortunately, the preparations for the conference are delayed, and the official invitations are not out yet.

INFORSE will follow these developments, and will report on them on the website at www.inforse.org as well as in coming issues of Sustainable Energy News.