

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS

Newsletter for **INFORSE** International Network for Sustainable Energy

No. 70, October 2010

- Next Steps on Climate
- New Centre in Romania



- EU Policies
- National NGO Activities

Inside: Newsletter of the
Low Carbon Societies Network

Sustainable Energy News

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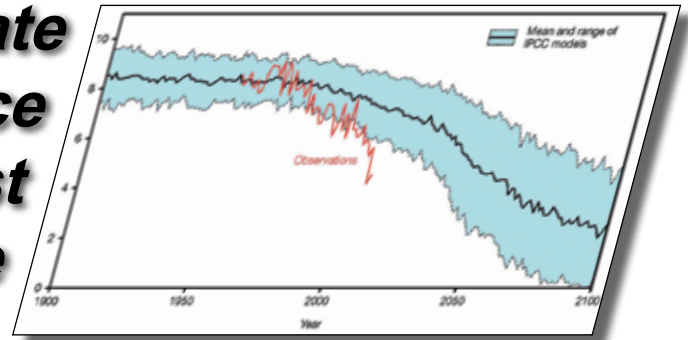
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Photo on front page:

One of the creative educational installations at the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), Wales UK, where INFORSE-Europe and the Low Carbon Societies Network held seminars in October 2010.

Photo by Béla Munkácsy.

The Climate Race against Time



Melting Arctic sea-ice (see article on page 4.)

Reducing greenhouse-gas emissions to levels that will confine global climate change to 2°C or less, increasingly, is a race against time. Global emissions continue to grow, and a global agreement to turn this trend is hard to see coming in the near future.

While we can still hope that the climate COP16 in Cancun, Mexico can pave the way for a global agreement, we also have to plan climate policies without a global climate agreement. Even without a global agreement, a lot can be done. Of course the climate mitigation effects of national and regional climate policies are less certain without a global agreement.

On the other hand, ambitious local and national policies can be more important than a global agreement with too-low ambitions.

Crucial to the value of local and national actions is that they show ways of reducing emissions, ways that can be replicated by others, both because of climate mitigation and because of more local benefits.

This year China will be the largest producer of windmills, and last year it became the largest installer of new windpower, surpassing both Germany the global leader for many years, and the USA. China's interest in windpower is of course linked with its increasing demand for power, but also with a growing understanding of the fact that its previous strategy of expanding coal power capacity will not continue to be viable.

The coal power strategy has provided China with affordable power for many years, but has brought serious local pollution to many locations in China and has made China the largest greenhouse-gas emitter in the world. Recently it has also made China a coal importer, and has been partly responsible for the increasing global coal prices.

Windpower has the potential to allow continued growth of power consumption with just a fraction of the pollution that coal power causes, and of course without further increases in coal imports.

If China and others will turn to windpower and other renewables for power plants expansion, this can be a way to continue economic growth without increasing emissions.

At least, it can for a while; growth in transport and heating also need to be renewable to make true decoupling of economic development from emissions possible.

Unfortunately, the examples in sustainable transport are much weaker than those of renewable power.

We lack good, nationwide examples that can show China and other growing economies a convincing alternative to the polluting, car-based transport paths that developed countries have followed.

We also lack good, large-scale sustainable energy examples in many other fields.

Developed countries that will decide to reduce emissions by 30% - 40% by 2020 probably will establish such examples within the coming decade. Then other countries, not the least China and India, can learn from these examples and complete the decoupling of development from increases in emissions.

Unfortunately, only a few countries have decided to make such reductions and it will take time to develop the good examples.

It is a race against time to save the climate, but we have no alternative.



Gunnar Boye Olesen

Gunnar Boye Olesen

Editor & INFORSE Regional Coordinator (Europe)

More Small Steps for the Climate, This Time in China

The latest session of climate negotiations in Tianjin, China in the first week of October unfortunately showed that discussions are not on track to reach agreements that will reduce man-made climate change to sustainable levels. The hope for global climate must rely more on national actions, primarily of high-emitting countries, combined with international agreements to deal with other issues such as deforestation. The negotiations in China were the last before the climate COP16 in Cancun, Mexico.

Some Progress on REDD, Technology, Financing, and Adaptation

As one of the good news, at least: progress was made at the climate negotiations in China on the forest proposals in REDD (Reduction of Deforestation and Degradation). Proposals that could lead to global reduction of deforestation could be agreed at COP16 in Cancun, Mexico this coming November - December. Unfortunately, the related negotiations on forest financing and the REDD+ partnership did not really move forward.

The issue of technology also advanced, with possibilities for agreement at COP16 on a "climate technology centre and network" (CTCN) and on a "technology executive committee" (TEC). There are, however, outstanding issues regarding the roles of these institutions, which probably will have to be solved after COP16.

On financing, a proposal for a new fund is gaining momentum, a fund with a balanced representation from North and South. Some progress was also made on adaptation. One of the proposals discussed was an adaptation committee, and it is possible that some decisions regarding adaptation can be made at COP16.

Little Progress on Kyoto Protocol, MRV, Shared Vision

On the Kyoto Protocol, the developing countries are pressing for targets of developed countries in a coming commitment period, while the developed countries rather would like to discuss other issues, such as the length of a new commitment period and what would happen if no agreement were reached.

On one issue, some progress was made: inclusion of land-use changes (LULUCF) for developed countries. Unfortunately the proposals on the table are opening new, big loopholes in the accounting of national greenhouse-gas emissions; thus the best outcome, sad to say, would be not to reach any agreement on this issue.

On limiting of emissions (mitigation), the USA continues to argue that developing countries should commit to action to limits emissions, which are Measurable, Reportable, and Verifiable (MRV), but does not itself commit to sufficient reductions. China and several other developing countries are critical towards strong MRV rules for developing countries.

On a shared vision for future climate targets and emissions, a text about the structure has been negotiated, but no numbers are agreed and some developed countries are trying to reduce the references to their historical emissions.

The Copenhagen Accord is referred to primarily by developed countries, but will not be the basis for negotiations. The basis is still primarily the **Bali Action Plan and Road Map** from 2007 with the two negotiation tracks: the Kyoto Protocol and the long-term cooperative action based on the Climate Convention itself.



Next Stop Cancun

The climate negotiations will continue at the COP16, at Cancun, Mexico,

November 29 - December 10, 2010.

In spite of the slow negotiations, this is a chance to give the climate negotiations a boost, make an agreement to halt deforestation (in the REDD negotiations), and agree a mechanism for technology transfer, a framework for financing, and a shared vision to limit man-made global warming to 1.5 - 2°C as already stated in the Copenhagen Accord. Further, the countries could agree reductions of aviation and shipping as well as making CDM sustainable. Then the road would be clear for agreements in 2011 on the many other outstanding issues.

*Read on INFORSE's participation on UN FCCC conferences:
W: http://www.inforse.org/europe/UN_INFORSE.htm .*

INFORSE is proposing a new CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) to replace the current scheme, which hardly contributes to poverty reduction and in which many of the CDM projects that receive support are ineffective in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The new CDM scheme must follow a new set of criteria, including:

- Projects must lead to poverty reduction and to the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals.
- Projects must address directly the needs of poor people, increasing the welfare and/or incomes of the poor.
- Only reductions of CO₂ and CH₄ emissions may be included.
- Project organisers must be non-profit to avoid exploitation of the mechanism for profit.
- Project administration and verification must be proportional to the size of the project.
- Projects must be additional to business as usual, so they only happen because of the CDM support, but verification can be simpler for smaller, standardised projects.
- Project bundling should be allowed.
- CDM credits and evt. other external credits must only account for at most 10% of the total reduction target of a country.
- CDM income should be available for up-front investments, for instance via a fund and/or via an opportunity to sell a part of the certified emission reductions (CER) early in the project.

The current CDM scheme must be replaced with a new CDM scheme based on the above principles. Only then can the practice be justified of replacing emission reductions in the high-emitting developed countries with emission reductions in developing countries.

This change of CDM shall not change the historical responsibilities of developed countries and international institutions for past emissions as well as for dissemination of high-emission solutions. A fair, global climate regime shall include a mechanism for support for emission reductions in developing countries, based on historical responsibilities and on abilities to support, but that mechanism shall be different from the proposed CDM and shall not count towards meeting greenhouse-gas reduction targets of developed countries.

Read the proposal at www.inforse.org .

Climate Change Continues; Latest Science Reconfirms It



By Emil Bedi, INFORSE-Europe
Coordinator

The 2007 Fourth Assessment report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that if dangerous climate change is to be prevented, global warming must be limited to 2 °C. To achieve this, the report tells us, global emissions must peak between 2015 and 2020 and then must decline rapidly. Specifically, the average annual per-capita emissions will have to be reduced to well under 1 ton of CO₂ by 2050. This is 80-95% below the per-capita emissions in developed nations in 2000.

Today it seems that the world will not be able to stop the increase in global greenhouse-gas emissions within the next 10 years. This places the 2 °C target, and the global ecosystem, in danger. Business-as-usual leads to atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ of almost three times pre-industrial levels by 2100. This would trigger global warming of 6 - 7 °C or more. The national reduction proposals following the Copenhagen Accord also lead to dangerous levels of warming of more than 4 °C.

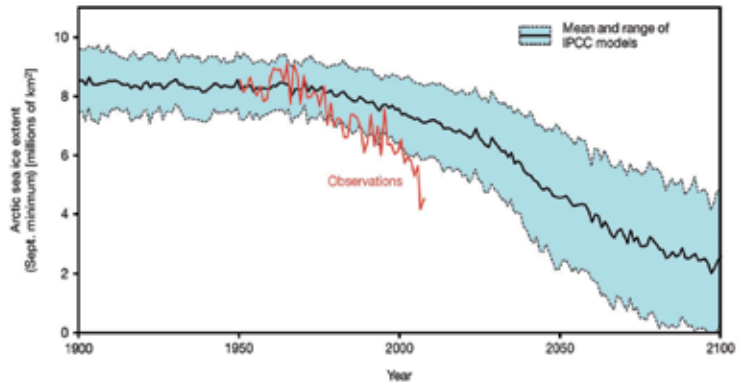
Since the publication of the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report in 2007, a growing amount of scientific literature has appeared which not only supports the previous findings, but even says that the situation may well be much worse.

GHG Emissions Surged by 40% from 1990 to 2008, and are still Climbing

Global CO₂ emissions in 2008 were 40% higher than those in 1990. The emissions growth rate since 2000 was greater than had been envisioned by the "highest" scenario of the 4th IPCC Report. As a matter of fact, CO₂ emissions are increasing ten times faster than any rate detected in ice core data over the last 22,000 years.

Emissions from worldwide fossil-fuel burning continue to accelerate at global rates rising from 1.1 % per year for 1990–1999 to 3.5 % per year for the period 2000–2007. Almost constant increasing trends have been observed in some developed as well as in developing countries. Growing use of coal combustion to produce power seems to be the major engine behind this increase.

Emission growth rates have been highest in the rapidly developing economies, particularly in China.



Observed (red line) and modeled September Arctic sea-ice extent in millions of km² (Copenhagen Diagnosis 2009, UNSW Climate Change Research Centre).

Concentrations of atmospheric CO₂ are increasing rapidly due not only to the rapid growth in fossil fuel CO₂ emissions, but also to declining efficiency of CO₂ sinks in oceans and on land in absorbing anthropogenic emissions.

The reduction in sink efficiency is in line with outcomes of climate carbon-cycle models, but the magnitude of the observed data is larger than that estimated by the models.

No Action is NOT an Option

Regardless of the state of our understanding, regardless of disagreements within the scientific community, however, the planet continues to warm. Scientists predict that if we continue with "business as usual", the risk of catastrophic consequences is very high. The evidence is so overwhelming that taking no action to limit climate change is not a serious option.

References: see www.inforse.org

Temperatures - During the past 25 years, temperatures have increased at a rate of 0.19 °C per decade. This trend is in good agreement with predictions based on greenhouse-gas-emission increases. In just the past ten years, this warming continued despite a decrease in solar radiation. The last decade (2000-2010) was hotter than the 1990s, which were hotter than the 1980s, which again were hotter than the 1970s. The year 2010 is on track to be among the 3 hottest years on record. The 12-month running average of global temperature set new records three times in 2010, according to NASA GISS data.

Ice Melting - The melting ice in the Arctic and other parts of the world is emerging as an area of major concern. A wide array of satellite and ice measurements now demonstrates that both the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets are losing mass at an increasing rate. Melting of Arctic sea ice in summer has increased far more than was expected in previous IPCC climate models. The area of sea ice melt during 2007-2009 was about 40% greater than that predicted by the 4th IPCC report. The thickness of Arctic sea ice has also declined during the last several decades.

Most models of seasonal ice loss have envisioned an ice-free September for the Arctic Ocean by the late 21st century. The decline of sea ice area in 2007 demanded new analyses and suggested new trends. Re-evaluations factoring in the latest observed trends have led to some predictions that the Arctic could be ice-free by September of 2037.

Melting of glaciers and ice caps in other parts of the world has also accelerated since 1990 and is projected to accelerate further. This will reduce water availability, limit hydropower potential, and change flows in regions dependent on melt water (e.g. Hindu Kush, Himalaya).

Sea-Level Rise - Satellite measurements show that sea-level rise is proceeding much faster than was expected. The average rate of rise for 1993-2008 was 3.4 millimeters per year, while the Fourth IPCC Report best estimate was 1.9 millimeters per year for the period. Sea level will probably rise much more by 2100 than the previously estimated range of 18-59 centimeters.

Climate models show that when CO₂ concentrations exceed 600 ppm (expected in the 21st century), sea levels can rise by 0.4 to 1.0 meters just due to expansion of the water as it warms. If concentrations reach 1000 ppm, this rise could reach 1.9 meters, again just from the expansion of the water. The melting of the ice shelf will raise it a great deal further.

Abrupt Change - Recent scientific findings point to the possibility that the Earth will face abrupt changes in local, regional and global climate systems. Thermohaline circulation patterns are considered to be at risk, although poorly understood. Other effects of concerns in abrupt-change risk scenarios include ice-albedo feedback, losses of forest cover through burning, freshwater pulses from melting ice sheets, sudden infusions of freshwater from catastrophic draining of glacial lakes, vast releases of methane trapped in ice, permafrost and ocean mud, and others.

INFORSE-Europe Activities

National Activities

INFORSE-Europe is supporting and working together with several members on national and EU energy policy issues. Among the activities are:

- forwarding inputs to INFORSE-Europe on EU consultations
 - organising national seminars to evaluate, and debate EU energy policies
 - organising educations for school children in the framework of SPARE.
 - reviewing sustainable energy projects under the national structural funds
 - developing sustainable energy scenarios
- Activities are planned in the following countries by the following organisations:
- Slovakia by Foundation for Alternative Energy (FAE)
Event: December 15, Bratislava.
 - Denmark by Vedvarende Energi (Renewable Energy)
Event: December 9, Copenhagen
 - Bulgaria by Za Zemiata (For the Earth)
Event: December 14-15, Sofia
 - Romania by Prietenii Pamintului (Earth Friends) and CAN-RO
Event: November 25, *Brusturoasa*
 - France by Committee for Renewable Energy (CLER)
Event: December 3, Paris
 - Poland by Global Action Plan (GAP)
 - Portugal by Life Science Centre (CCV)
 - Hungary by Environmental Education Network (KHE)

These activities are co-financed by EU DG Environment Civil Society Support and the members. The events are announced on the members' home pages as well as at www.inforse.org/europe/seminar.htm



Group photo of the 32 participants of the INFORSE-Europe Seminar in October 2010 Wales, UK. Proceedings can be downloaded from: http://www.inforse.org/europe/seminar2010_CAT.htm as well as from the Low Carbon Societies Network's web site <http://lowcarbon-societies.eu/index.php?id=42>

Baltic NGO Cooperation

INFORSE-Europe has continued the Baltic cooperation project for 2010-2011. The partners are organisations from Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, and Denmark. The latest event was a study tour in Sweden and Denmark and the next event will be a visit in Lithuania in November.

The Baltic project is supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers, AirClim, FoE Norway and DG EU Environment Civil Society Support.

Read more on the project: http://www.inforse.org/europe/baltic_project.htm

The study group in front of the INFORSE-Europe Secretariat's building in Denmark



Trainees in Brussels

In 2010, several INFORSE-Europe trainees are placed for 2 months in Brussels after staying at the Secretariat for 2 months.

The office in Brussels is at the member organisation, APERE.

The trainees are participating in several EU policy-related meetings in Brussels and report back to the network.

The trainees are:

Paula Rico Díaz from Spain. Environmental Science studies; postgraduate student on International Cooperation and Project Management. EU Leonardo trainee.

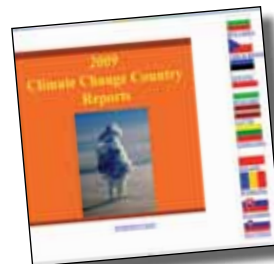


Dorte Wolfsgruber Jensen from Denmark, student Cand. Merc. Jur. Business Administration and Commercial Laws.

Reports Under Preparation:

New Edition: Climate NGO Country Reports

INFORSE-Europe is preparing a new update of the Climate Country Reports with NGO views. The report already covers the new EU countries. A new EU accession country, Macedonia, will be included, prepared by Front 21/42.



A EU Structural Fund Guide

INFORSE-Europe is compiling information on renewable-energy projects financed by EU Structural Funds. The collection is sorted by countries and by technologies. Updates are planned for sections on Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Bulgaria. A new NGO Guide will be also published in December, 2010.



Send Input to School Resource Database

W: www.inforse.org/europe/schools.htm



Send Input to the Success Database

W: casestudies.inforse.org

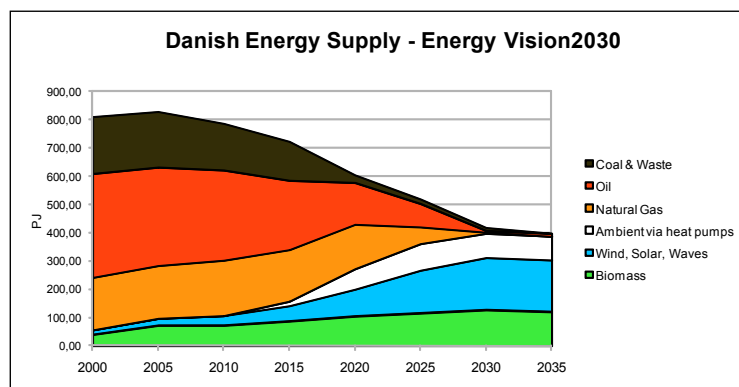


Join the SPARE Energy Efficiency Day - November 11
W: www.spareworld.org

100% Renewable Energy in 2030 with Good Economy

In September 2010, INFORSE-Europe and the Danish organisation VedvarendeEnergi (Sustainable Energy, previously OVE) presented a new sustainable energy vision for Denmark, with scenarios and a plan for transition to 100% renewable energy by 2030.

The vision includes a series of scenarios for reaching 100% renewables in 2030 with different rates of windpower development and biomass use. It shows that it is possible to realise 100% renewable energy in different ways.

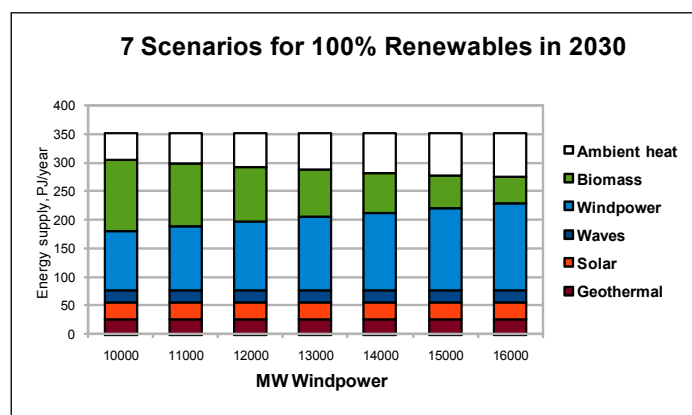


In the graph, "biomass" includes biogas, solid biomass including energy forests, and a small amount of liquid biofuels. "Wind, Solar, Waves" also includes geothermal heat. From 2030 onwards, "Coal and Waste" is only waste used for energy.

A new feature of the study is calculation of the costs of a system with 100% renewable energy for 2030, compared with a basis with less renewable energy, lower energy-efficiency, and less electric-power transport.

The results are that with 3% interest rate, 100% renewable energy is cheaper than the basis with continued use of fossil fuels, while with 6% interest rate the costs are essentially the same, when the comparison is made with Danish official estimates of future fossil-fuel prices.

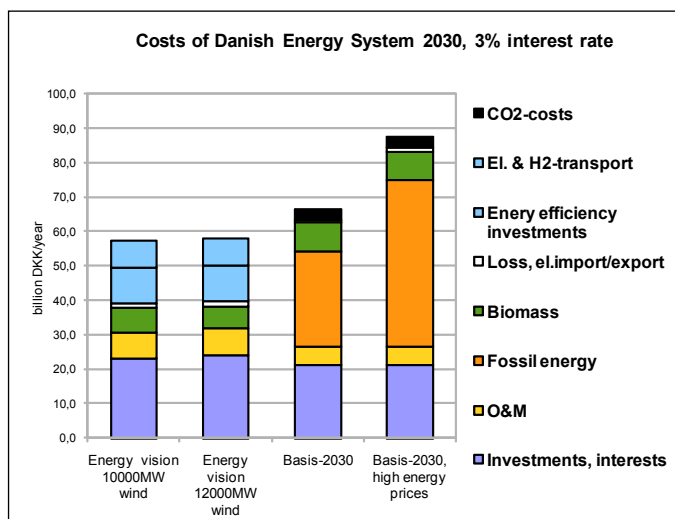
With high fossil-fuel prices, the 100% renewable energy scenarios are cheaper with both 3% and 6% interest rates.



The various scenarios have different windpower capacities ranging from 10,000 MW windpower to 16,000 MW windpower. The more windpower capacity is included, the less biomass is needed. In the scenarios with more windpower, there will be more use of heat pumps, and as a result the use of ambient heat will increase. The energy demand and the energy system are the same for the 7 scenarios. The cross-border electricity exchange capacity for import & export is also the same in all the scenarios, and it is the same as today's.



Among the presenters of the Danish Vision in the Parliament building were (left to right) Marianne Bender (Chair of VedvarendeEnergi - VE) Gunnar Boye Olesen (INFORSE/VE). The Vision was commented by politicians and industry representatives (right).



Costs are divided in payment of investments including interest rates, operating & maintenance costs, fuel costs, losses from importing electricity when the prices are higher than when it is exported, investments in energy efficiency & electric transport. For the basis scenario also CO₂-costs of 20€/ton. Two of the 100% renewable-energy scenarios are included with, respectively, 10,000 MW and 12,000 MW windpower.

Sustainable Energy Visions for EU and 11 Countries

The new Danish energy vision is one of 11 national sustainable energy visions produced by INFORSE-Europe and its members covering a number of European countries, including "ZeroCarbonBritain" for the UK, by the Centre for Alternative Technology. In addition, INFORSE-Europe has developed a visions for phase-out of fossil and nuclear energy for EU-27 between 2040 and 2050.

Read more about the vision, the scenarios, the calculations etc. at www.inforse.org/europe/Vision2050.htm.



EU Policy Update

Edited by Gunnar Boye Olesen,
INFORSE-Europe Coordinator

New EU Energy Strategy, Roadmap and Summit

The EU Commission is about to launch a new Energy Strategy for 2011-2020, setting the framework for EU energy policies for the coming decade. It is also working on an Energy Roadmap for 2050 to set the long-term framework, but that Roadmap is not expected until the first half of 2011.

To engage the EU countries further in energy cooperation, the president of the European Council, Herman van Rompuy, is convening the Prime Ministers of the EU countries for an energy summit on February 4, 2011.

While the topics of the new EU energy cooperation are still an open question, current proposals include:

- internal energy markets (reinforcing regulation to increase competition, consumer protection and increase of security of supply),
- infrastructure (gas pipelines and inter-connectors between national electricity and gas networks, simplified procedures for permissions, financing),
- energy efficiency, which could include strengthening Ecodesign regulation, financing, and revisions of the Energy service and CHP directives,
- Nuclear safety and waste management, and
- External energy policy, including relations with major energy suppliers and with major energy users.

Energy Infrastructure Package

In addition to the new Energy Strategy, the Commission is preparing an energy infrastructure package that is expected in November, 2010. The focus of the package is expected to be support for expansions of gas and electricity networks.

Revised Energy Efficiency Action Plan (EEAP)

Other parts of the coming Energy Strategy will be detailed in a new energy-efficiency action plan, revising the existing action plan from 2006. This plan is expected in the beginning of 2011, hopefully in time for the Energy Summit in February.

Will EU go for 30% Reduction by 2020?

Given the standstill in the climate negotiations, there is increasing support for the proposal that the EU should move to 30% reductions by 2020 without a global climate agreement. This past summer, the environmental ministers of France, Germany and UK expressed their support for the idea, and at the end of September the Danish Prime Minister also supported it on behalf of his government. On the other hand, Poland has been vehemently against the proposal. At the EU Environmental Ministers' Meeting in October, no decision was taken, but the Ministers agreed to consider the proposal again in 2011.



Logos of the NGOs playing a significant role as progressive and independent experts challenging the industry's attempts to weaken the proposals on labeling and ecodesign of products.

More: www.inforse.org/europe/eu_ecodesign.htm
www.ecostandard.org, www.coolproducts.eu



Ecodesign of TV, Boilers, Air Conditioning, Computer, etc.

The EU energy efficiency regulation based on the Ecodesign Directive continues with new products covered:

Televisions. After considerable delays, energy-efficiency requirements and labeling of televisions have been adopted by the EU Commission. The new regulation will enter into force in the beginning of 2011. Then the labelling and the requirements will be mandatory at the beginning of 2012. Producers can start to equip their televisions with labels already in 2011 on a voluntary basis.

Water Heaters and Boilers: Following a stakeholder consultation over the summer on water heaters, the Commission is now preparing legislation for labelling and energy-efficiency requirements of water heaters and boilers. If the processes continue as expected, then regulations can be in force in the fall of 2011 and labelling can start in 2012. NGOs have asked for ambitious regulation, not to start with A+++ labels, and that heat pumps not be given unjustifiable bonuses.

Air Conditioning regulation is progressing with potential adoption in the beginning of 2011. The regulation shall strengthen requirements, improve labeling, and hopefully penalise the use of refrigerants with high global-warming potentials.

Computers are also expected to be regulated in the beginning of 2011, with regulation very close to the Energy Star 5 regulation in the USA, limiting energy consumption of computers from less than 30 kWh/year for the smallest type of notebooks to less than 275 kWh/year for the largest type of desktop computers with, for instance, more than one hard disk.

Preparations have started for regulation of a large number of other products, including lighting and refrigeration not covered yet, solid fuel combustion, and game consoles. In 2011 work will also continue with products that do not use energy directly, such as water using equipment (showers, taps, etc.).

Energy Poverty

The inability of consumers to pay their energy bills, called "energy poverty", is increasingly in focus in EU. With the implementation of the recent electricity- and gas-market directives, by March 2011, countries shall "define a concept of vulnerable customers ... to the prohibition of disconnection of such customers in critical times". The Belgium EU presidency wants the EU countries to set common guidelines for this, and in general promotes the inclusion of the energy poverty concept in EU policies. INFORSE-Europe is following this (See more at page 11).

Renewable-Energy Directive

After the EU countries delivered their Renewable-Energy Action Plans in June (or later), it became clear that most countries expect to meet or to exceed their respective targets, leading to a combined target close to 25% renewable energy in 2020 for the EU27. This is well above the 20% that was agreed with the renewable-energy directive. On the other hand, some of the national Action Plans are of low quality. In Romania a group of environmental NGOs has complained about the inadequate parts of the Action Plan.

The countries have until the end of this year (2010) to implement the main elements of the Directive.

Read more about EU-policy, find links to further sources:
www.inforse.org/europe/eupolicy.htm

Energy Sufficiency

While energy efficiency is a well-established issue, we also have to deal with the fact that there are simply not enough resources for endless growth of consumption. At some point we have to limit our own consumption, agree that we have sufficient material input: sufficient houses, sufficient travelling, sufficient industrial products, etc. In France, the Negawatt movement has already included sufficiency as part of the solutions to a transition to sustainable energy. In a number of richer countries, many people agree that increased consumption will not bring them more happiness, health or a better life. Thus it is time to start discussing the limits of physical growth in practical ways, to change the aims of societies and from sheer physical growth to the development and maintenance of good and healthy lives.

In INFORSE-Europe, we will start this discussion of energy sufficiency and its implications for national as well as EU-wide strategies and policies. Before the end of the year, we expect the first conclusions.

EU Eastern Partnership

The EU's Eastern Partnership with Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, and the Caucasian countries continues with a number of activities to increase cooperation between the EU and these countries. A major recent development was that Ukraine signed a protocol for accession to the European Energy Community in September, as a step to create a pan-European energy market based on the principles of EU's internal energy market.

Several NGOs are following the Eastern Partnership in a Civil Society Forum that will have its annual meeting November 18-19, 2010 in Berlin. INFORSE-Europe will be represented by MAMA-86. *Read: www.eeas.europa.eu/eastern*

Countries concerned:
Armenia,
Azerbaijan,
Belarus,
Georgia,
Moldova,
Ukraine.



News from EU Countries:

Denmark: Phase-out of Fossil Fuels

On September 28, 2010, the Danish Climate Commission presented its plan for phase-out of fossil fuels in Denmark.

It proposes to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy by 2050, relying mainly on windpower and biomass. It presented two preferred scenarios, one with large biomass import and one with no net import of biomass by 2050, but with substantial Danish production of biomass. Due to expectations of steady economic growth in Denmark through to 2050 (a doubling of GDP and a similar growth in energy services), the scenario includes higher demands for renewable energy than in the 100% renewable-energy scenarios proposed by INFORSE-Europe organisations.

The Commission rejected nuclear power as an option with the conclusion: "...there is no obvious advantage in investing in nuclear power rather than renewable energy in Denmark. ...there is no indication that nuclear power will be economically competitive, for example, compared with off-shore wind turbines...."

The Danish Government welcomed the report and adopted the target of making Denmark fossil-fuel-free by 2050. The Government will now develop a plan to increase energy efficiency and use of renewable energy.

More: www.klimakommissionen.dk/en-US



Wales: New Climate Change Strategy

The Government of Wales presented its new Climate Change Strategy at the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales on October 7, 2010. The Strategy sets targets of 3% annual reductions of greenhouse-gas emissions and of 40% overall reductions of greenhouse gases from 1990 levels by 2020. As the Welsh Government does not have control over all emissions, the Strategy only covers emissions within the sectors for which it is responsible, accounting for about 69% of the emissions in the territory of Wales. It includes actions to reduce emissions from transport, business, the residential sector, the public sector, and waste management.

Read: www.wales.gov.uk/climatechange



News from the Members: Za Zemiata, Bulgaria

The school eco-clubs exchanged ideas on their annual meeting in Varna

By Denitza Petrova,
Za Zemiata, Bulgaria

The national conference of the school eco-clubs took place on 8th-9th October, 2010 in Varna, Bulgaria. The event was organized by the INFORSE-Europe member, Za Zemiata, through the school program SPARE.

The main topics were energy efficiency and renewable technologies.

40 Students and teachers participated from Sofia, Plovdiv, Kavarna, Shumen and Silistra. The participants had the opportunity to meet and talk about solar installations with professor Mirchev in the Technical University of Varna, as well as to visit the solar laboratory of the University. They also had the chance to see working installations of biodiesel and of solar panels.

The demonstration of an electric vehicle with a converted motor was of huge interest to the students. The electric vehicle was converted from an old car by Plamen Petrov, an engineer from Varna.



Participants visiting the solar installations of the Technical University of Varna.

*More: Za Zemiata: www.zazemiata.org,
SPARE-INFORSE: www.inforse.org/europe/schools/SPARE.htm
SPARE: www.spareworld.org/*

The electric vehicle



Demonstration and Training Centre Opens in Romania

The Centre for Traditions and Rural Sustainable Development in Brusturoasa, Romania Opens Its Gates
By Ion Zamfir, Prietenii Pamintului (Earth Friends), Romania

The idea of building a demonstration centre for sustainable development in Romania has become reality. The new 220-sqm centre offers huge opportunities to those who want to interest and inform visitors as well as future trainees.

The project's idea started about 18 years ago and developed during subsequent annual INFORSE-Europe Seminars that were organized by INFORSE members including Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy, at Hurup Thy, in Denmark, and the Centre for Alternative Technology in the UK. It became clear that the most effective way to change people's behaviour in the field of sustainable energy production, transportation and use is demonstration.

In 2008, Earth Friends won a national sustainable-development contest sponsored by the Petrom Company. We were awarded EUR 75,000, about half of the amount needed for this three-year project designed to improve the welfare of householders and to increase benefits to the environment in Valea Muntelui-Trotus, Bacau County, Romania. The grant was designated for the construction of a traditional building in which to organise the "public kitchen" for use by local people to produce in good sanitary conditions their jams, syrups and other traditional food products to be sold on specialized markets.

During the construction of the Centre's building, we had the idea not only to apply sustainability principles in the construction, but also to be able to demonstrate to the public how energy-efficiency works. The building provides a public, hands-on example of reducing energy bills while protecting the environment, both by reducing energy consumption and by using renewable energy. In fact, such construction has to be an example for the people who will visit it and a source of inspiration for all those who want to improve their comfort without increasing their costs and energy consumption.

In 2010, the project developed a strong emphasis on the urgent need to mitigate climate change. The budget includes a grant from Norway through the Norwegian Co-operation Program for Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Romania; we have entitled it „Romanian Small Communities, Schools and NGOs, Promote Climate Friendly Solutions”.

The project partners are the Society for Nature Protection from Norway and the Climate Action Network Romania.

At the centre, local people can learn how to make local traditional food and crafts (wooden barrels, carpets) as well as energy-saving and renewable energy (solar thermal collectors) in their own houses.

The Centre's activities include to teach how people can protect their beautiful environment. We work with 14 pilot schools while 30 more already are interested for the new school year. Teachers are trained, educational materials are being prepared and SPARE school competitions are conducted.



The Do-It-Yourself (DIY) solar collectors built by Ion Zamfir (right) and a team of trainees. All six solar collectors on the roof of the centre were made by teams of trainees who came to learn about renewable energy in our beautiful environment. The collectors are effective and cheap to produce using just a few tools, some materials available in all plumbers' shops with a little bit of technical skill.



The heating room where you can also follow the heat production of the solar collectors



The Centre's main characteristics:

- A 220-sq-m wooden construction from local materials and built by local people;
- Roof made of recycled clay tiles recovered from town hall;
- 6-x-2-sq-m flat solar collectors are built from a Do-It-Yourself design. They are cheap, long-lasting and of good quality, offering an example to all those who want to use solar energy but haven't enough money to buy high-tech systems.
- Hybrid solar & biomass heating and hot-water production installation with 800-l tank-in-tank hot-water storage system. The 35-kW boiler is designed to use wood, coal and forest biomass; an optional custom-made pellet burner offers the advantage of complete automation. There are at least 20 sawmills in the village, and the resulting sawdust hasn't any use. It is usually dumped without permission in the most unexpected places and in Trotus river. This huge amount of sawdust could be the main source of raw material for pellets and briquettes. That's why we bought a low-capacity pellet mill (max 150 kg/hour). With this equipment we are able to produce the needed amount of sawdust pellets for our boiler, and we can show it to potential users who are visiting the sawmill areas.
- Small solar and wind-powered electricity-production systems: 2 x 50 W, 12 V solar modules, a micro wind turbine of 200 W, 12 V d.c., a controller for battery charging, a battery of 12 V, 100 Ah, and a 1500 VA inverter to convert the 12 V d.c. from battery to 230V a.c. to be used for various applications.
- The lighting system is based on compact fluorescent bulbs and LED lamps.

Apply for the Ashden Award and begin your journey to inspire others

By Carla Jones, Ashden Award, UK

The Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy seek entries every year from inspirational and innovative local sustainable energy programmes in the UK and in the developing countries.

The 2011 Award is focusing on Asia, Africa and Latin America. The six winners will receive £20,000 each and one winner will receive a gold award of £40,000.

Besides the prizes, the winners get substantial packages of benefits to help them grow; e.g., a short film is made and a support package is tailored, including introductions to grant, carbon and investment finance. The awards will be presented at a ceremony in London in June 2011.

We dedicate ourselves to building sustainable-energy champions that can be held up as inspiring examples of sustainability in action. That is why receiving an award is just the beginning of the journey for most of our winners.

We look for schemes that are technically rigorous, have an element of innovation and - most importantly - make a genuine difference to local peoples' lives, both socially and economically.

Many are doing this by boosting local peoples' income, providing employment or training, installing lighting for schoolwork, and even improving women's status in their community. Award-winning schemes must have been consistently successful for at least one year with plans for further expansion. Schemes must also be able to scale up and be highly replicable to ensure maximum impact in the battle against climate change.

The Ashden Award has supported over 140 winners across the UK and the developing world since 2001.

Several INFORSE members have received the Award, e.g., in 2006 GERES (France) for projects in Cambodia, Grameen Shakti (Bangladesh), and Severn Wye Energy Agency - SWEA (UK).

Read in Sustainable Energy News
#55: page 11.

<http://www.inforse.org/doc/SEN55.pdf>

www.ashdenawards.org



Energy Poverty

In an increasing number of EU countries, it is recognised that a part of the population has a hard time paying energy bills and faces the risk of being disconnected from its energy supply. As an example, there is new evidence that as many as 10% of Spaniards have this problem. While for some people it is simply a problem attributable to poverty, for others it is as much a question of high energy bills because of inefficient houses, equipment, etc.

With increasing recognition of energy-poverty problems, a growing number of politicians and stakeholders has promoted the concept of integrating energy-poverty considerations into relevant EU policies. The recent electric- and gas-market directives require the countries to limit disconnection of vulnerable consumers, but the real solution must be to bring costs within the realistic reach of consumers' ability to pay, for instance with energy efficiency that can reduce their energy bills. Support is often better used to increase energy efficiency of vulnerable consumers than to support them directly to pay energy bills, but the energy efficiency has to be implemented before consumers are about to be disconnected.

INFORSE-Europe has already developed a set of proposals for integration of energy poverty into EU legislation. In the coming months, we will continue the discussion, both internally with other stakeholders and with external inputs to the EU system.



Fuel Poverty in Hungary: A first Assessment

Final Project Report

Among the findings: 80% of Hungarians spend more than 10% of their income on their energy bills, which is considered the international threshold for "fuel poverty".

15 % of the Hungarian population declare that they are unable to heat their homes to an acceptable level, which is the sixth largest figure in Europe (highest is in Portugal, lowest in Luxemburg).

Hungary has Europe's highest share of customers chronically having problems paying their utility bills, at 18% of all households.

2010 is the "European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion".

The ultimate goal should be that everyone in Europe has the resources to lead a decent life. The Belgian Presidency of the European Union (July-December 2010) aims to raise awareness for the need to combat poverty.

There are campaigns and conferences until the end of 2010 to emphasize the social character and effects of combating poverty.

http://www.mi-is.be/be_en/04/index.html

The EU Spain - Belgium - Hungary Trio Presidency

The program of the trio includes fighting poverty as one of the main challenges of the 21st Century.

This problem will continue to confront the Hungarian presidency in 2011. See publication on energy poverty in Hungary on this page.



The specific energy consumption per square meter of Hungarian dwellings is the third highest in the European Union. Hungary is the only EU member state in which the heating-energy-efficiency index has deteriorated in recent years.

The report also includes the main findings of several interviews with fuel-poor households and with other relevant actors that, through selected case studies, help to describe how people actually experience inadequate access to energy services.

By Sergio Tirado Herrero and Prof. Diana Ürge-Vorsatz, CEU. Prepared in collaboration with The Environmental Justice Working Group, Hungarian NGO Védjegylet (Protect the Future). Published by Center for Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Policy (3CSEP), Central European University (CEU). 2010 January, 35 pp., download free pdf file, 0.9 MB. <http://3csep.ceu.hu/projects/fuel-poverty-in-hungary>



Rock-Solid?

A scientific review of geological disposal of high-level radioactive waste, with a focus on the countries that have made the most

advances in this still unsolved problem, including Sweden, Finland and France.

The report describes a multitude of problems with the possible - or impossible - task of storing hot radioactive waste safely for 100,000 years.

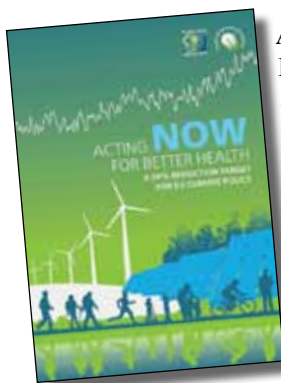
Consultancy Report by Helen Wallace, Genewatch UK

2010 September, 64 pp.

Free download pdf file 304 kB

Published by Greenpeace International

Read: www.greenpeace.org/eu-unit/press-centre/reports/rock-solid-a-scientific-review



Acting NOW for Better Health: A 30% Reduction Target for EU Climate Policy

The report quantifies at 30.5 billion EUR the health benefits of cleaner air

associated with moving to a 30% emissions reduction target in the EU.

The report

- Calculates the prevented losses in the EU due to ill-health as well as loss of life;
- Provides the first-ever figures for health benefits per Member State, including detailed figures for eight countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and the UK);
- Demonstrates that immediate action on climate policy would produce more benefits than if such action were delayed.

Published by Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) and Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe

2010 September, 40 pp, pdf file,

Contact: Dr Pendo Maro, Senior Climate and Energy Advisor, pendo@env-health.org, <http://www.env-health.org/a/3585>



Sparking A Worldwide Energy Revolution: Social Struggles in the Transition to a Post - Petrol World

Edited by Kolya Abramsky

With over 50 chapters written by contributors from 20 countries, the book forms a collective map of the most dynamic struggles within the energy sector.

As the world's energy system faces a period of unprecedented change, a global struggle is under way for control of the sector. There is no easy resolution of this battle. The book unpacks the conflicts of the current energy crisis (peak oil, peak coal, peak uranium) and the transition to a sustainable green future within a historical understanding of the global, social, economic, political, financial, military, and ecological relations.

The book is a major contribution to the movement working for a transition from carbon capitalism to an ecologically sound energy system. It presents the energy crisis, describes alternative technologies, and introduces us to the people all over the world who are fighting for a healthy planet and for the recreation of the earth's commons.

There are chapters from two INFORSE members:

- Household biogas plants from INSEDA in India by Raymond Myles;
- Several chapters from the Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy by Preben Maegaard and Jane Kruse. One of them is e.g., "An Authentic Story About How a Local Community Became Self-Sufficient in Pollution Free Energy From the Wind And Created a Source of Income for the Citizens"

Among the authors is the recently died Hermann Scheer, who wrote a chapter on IRENA. (See more on the back page.)

ISBN: 9781849350051

2010 July, 690 pp., 24 USD

Published by AK Press.

W: <http://www.akpress.org/2009/items/sparkingaworldwideenergyrevolution>, Contact: [Kolya kolyaab@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Kolya.kolyaab@yahoo.co.uk)



Poland's Alternative Energy Policy until 2030

English report on a 2-year study of developing 6 alternative scenarios for Polish future energy, including

nuclear and renewable energy scenarios. The report concludes that with very optimistic assumptions for nuclear power, the costs are the same with nuclear power as with renewable energy.

By Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD), Warsaw, Poland

2009 December, 95 pp.

Free download pdf file 7.45 MB

Published by Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD), Poland and Herculus Program;

The program was co-financed by the Polish Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, Oak Foundation, and by Henrich Böll Foundation.

W: www.ine-isd.org.pl/lang/pl/page/broszury/id/18/



REN21 Renewables 2010 Global Status Report

The annual report covers both current status and key trends of the renewable-energy

markets, investment, industry, and policy since 2005. It has been edited by 150 researchers, contributors and reviewers. The year 2009 was unprecedented in the history of renewable energy, despite the headwinds posed by the global financial crisis, lower oil prices, and slow progress with climate policy.

2010 September, 80 pp.

Free download pdf file, 3.67 MB

Published by REN21 – Renewable Energy Policy Network for 21st Century - Secretariat hosted by the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). W: <http://www.ren21.net/>

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4th Revolution - Energy Autonomy

The sustainable-energy film of the year is without doubt the "4th Revolution" film based on ideas of the German parliamentarian and president of Eurosolar Herman Scheer, as well as of the Danish leader of the Nordic Folkecenter for Sustainable Energy, Preben Maegaard, and others. The film has been shown in Germany since March, while an English version is ready and about to be launched.

More: www.energyautonomy.org.



Herman Scheer Has Died

It is sad to report that Herman Scheer, who inspired much of the above film and endless other initiatives for renewable energy, passed away in October, 2010. He will be remembered for his bold activities, not the least of which was his two-decade-long promotion of renewable-energy feed-in tariffs.

Read also the resolution of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA): www.irena.org/News/Description.aspx?News_ID=102&mnu=nws



Preben Maegaard Has Turned 75

Another inspirer of the above film and of much more, Preben Maegaard, turned 75 in September, and celebrated it at the Folkecenter. INFORSE congratulates.



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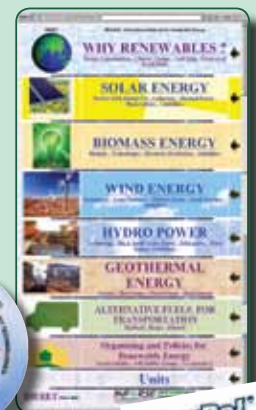
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