

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS

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

No. 63, December 2008

“Yes We Can !” COP 14 Poznan



NGO Views:

- Climate Negotiations
- EU Climate Package & Ecodesign

INFORSE Visions & Actions:

- 100 % Renewables by 2030/2050
- *SPARE in Schools*



Sustainable Energy News

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INFORSE-Europe
Gl. Kirkevej 82, DK-8530
Hjortshøj, Denmark.
T: +45-86-227000
F: +45-86-227096
E: ove@inforse.org
W: <http://www.inforse.org/>**Editors:**Gunnar Boye Olesen
Judit Szoleczky
Niki Fowler (text advice)**Advisory Board:**Emil Bedi, FAE, Slovakia
Sécou Sarr, ENDA, Senegal
Timothy Byakola, CDI, Uganda
Richard Worthington, EA, S. Africa
Raymond Myles, INSEDA, India
Lalita Balakrishnan, AIWC, India
Tetsunari Iida, ISEP, Japan
Emilio La Rovere, LIMA, Brazil
Roque Pedace, Rejima, Argentina**Deadline for the next issue:**

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of this issue.

One Crucial Year Ahead to Reach a Climate Agreement

"Countdown to Co₂penhagen"
"Time for Climate Justice"
"Time to Make a Difference"
Activists at COP 14.



This December, for the first time, INFORSE participated fully in a UN climate conference, COP 14 in Poznan, where the network was represented by 11 people from 4 continents. As the climate negotiations become more concrete, our role here as the network of NGOs promoting sustainable energy will increase.

While the climate negotiations are not easy to follow and are even harder to influence in a positive way, we did manage to contribute, with contacts to our respective national delegations, with our exhibition and side-event, and with the many contacts we made during the two weeks of the conference.

If the next climate conference, COP 15 in Copenhagen next year, is to succeed in producing an ambitious climate agreement, *a lot is left to do*. As always in international negotiations, the most important work is at home in each country. Only if a critical mass of industrialised countries is committed to real greenhouse-gas emission reductions nationally as well as to the support of mitigation and adaptation in the developing world can a sufficiently ambitious (read: effective) agreement be reached.

To win national support for greenhouse-gas reductions, it is crucial that the current international crisis be taken as an opportunity. It is crucial that the packages for economic revival have strong focus on green jobs, so that the new activities lead to lower fossil-fuel use and lower emissions. If the economic packages just stimulate the old patterns of energy use, it will be harder to win support for emission reductions afterwards.

The national focus should not stop with green economic revival packages. There is a need for concrete scenarios, strategies, policies, and measures leading to phase-out of energy-related greenhouse-gas emissions by 2050 and to reversal of emissions from land-use changes, such that land-use becomes a global sink rather than a source of emissions.

The market alone will not provide the long-term solutions that we need to combat climate change. There is a need for policies that correct the market and provide a robust framework

for a transition to sustainable energy. It is now quite clear how such policies can look at local and national levels. Information about, and local promotion of, energy efficiency and renewable energy; environmental taxes that internalise external costs; stable feed-in tariffs for renewable-energy producers at a level that covers costs; energy-efficiency requirements for houses and for energy-using products; sustainable transport planning; planning for sustainable energy; subsidies to introduce new solutions; and, for some countries, other measures, such as preferential loans.

There is also hard work to do on the international level. *A global agreement requires an equitable system* where each country feels confident that others are contributing equally so the national actions of the country are useful because they are part of a global action. These "others" are of course mainly the industrialised countries that are the main cause of the problem and have the economic resources to support others. If major developing countries with large emissions, such as China, are included, however, the agreement will be more effective in reducing global emissions.

Internationally, it is less clear which policies will lead us most efficiently to sustainable energy and other climate mitigation measures. Some policy mechanisms have proven to be successful, such as targets, with which each country knows how much it has to do to solve a global or regional problem. Other successful international elements are international institutions: once an international institution is established, it continues to work for its purpose, for the good and for the bad. At the climate negotiations, many are pushing for creation of international carbon markets in various forms. In a perfect world, such markets could set a price on emissions, just as environmental taxes do. Unfortunately, in the real world, carbon-market structures carry a seriously heightened risk of failing to achieve the necessary reductions. There is a big burden of proof on the promoters of such markets.

Gunnar Boye Olesen & Roque Pedace
INFORSE Coordinators, Europe & Latin America

Climate Conference - A Small Step Forward

It is not really encouraging when the best that can be said of a conference is that the participants managed to adopt a work plan for the coming year and to agree with the conclusions of last year's conference. Such a conference was the Climate Convention conference COP 14 in Poznan this December. Formally, the COP 14, including a meeting of countries that have ratified to Kyoto Protocol (CMP4), took 16 conclusions. There was also agreed a "Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer".

Working Plan to A Climate Deal

Naturally, to come to a global agreement to stop harmful global warming, a good plan for the work involved is important. According to the plan agreed at COP 14, negotiators shall spend at least 8 weeks in 2009 at the negotiating tables to reach an agreement in Copenhagen in December 2009:

- subsidiary bodies meeting in Bonn, March 29 - April 8, to discuss opinions and elements of an agreement;
- subsidiary bodies meeting Bonn, June 1 - 12 to start negotiations;
- subsidiary bodies meeting one week August - September (place not decided) to continue negotiations;
- COP15, Copenhagen, December 7-18, 2009.

Before the first meeting, the chair of the negotiations shall produce an overview of the proposals of the countries, similar to a paper prepared for COP 14; and before the second (June) meeting in Bonn, the chair shall make a draft negotiation text.

If the 8 weeks of negotiations are not enough the chairs of the negotiations can call extra meetings.

Reduction Ranges Stalemate

When EU could not agree internally and USA kept the lowest profile ever, the voices of Japan, Canada, Australia, and Russia got more attention. Unfortunately these countries were talking of lesser, rather than greater, reductions of emissions by industrialised countries, compared with the conclusion reached at COP 13 in Bali in 2007. At that time, it was concluded that industrialised countries should reduce emissions by 25-40% by 2020, based on 1990 levels. Several developing countries were pushing for stronger reductions in industrialised countries. Of course it is easy to state that others should reduce; but



Plenary of
COP 14.



"No coins - It's Change I Need"
- Bear on the floor at the COP 14
conference center.

the small island states have a point when they speak about the need to stop climate change before it is too late for them. Other developing countries are also hit harder than industrialised countries by climate change. Some small island states proposed that we should limit global warming to 1.5°C instead of the 2°C that EU and other more progressive countries usually promote. This will certainly require more than 40% reductions in industrialised countries by 2020.

With the messages from Canada, Russia, etc. in mind, several people were happy that the countries in the end still agreed that industrialised countries should reduce 25-40%, by referring to the conclusions of COP 13.

Climate Money

A big issue at COP 14 was the discussions on new ways of funding climate mitigation and adaptation activities. Now there is charged 2% on CDM projects, and it was discussed to extend that to other fields. These negotiations will continue in 2009.

The financial issues also included the adaptation fund that was agreed at COP 13 with a limited budget, but that has not started yet due to disagreements about the board. The fund is under the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), where industrialised countries have the majority in the board. The developing countries would prefer that the adaptation fund board, where they hold the majority, should decide about the use of the funding, but GEF and some industrialised countries were hesitant. Finally, it was concluded that the board should serve the functions of receiving and processing applications for mitigation projects from developing countries. Hopefully the fund can now start to work.

"Stop Warming"
"Start Helping"

Ice sculptures,
outside at the
entrance of the
COP 14
conference
center.
Action by Oxfam.



The New REDD

Among the many acronyms in the climate negotiations is REDD, i.e., REDuction of Deforestation and Degradation. This new international cooperation to stop the 20% of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation etc. was the subject of intense debates: Shall it be a fund or a market? Shall it create a kind of credits? Shall industrialised countries have the opportunity to buy such credits instead of reducing their own emissions? Shall such international funding just pay the costs of protecting the forests or also the "lost revenues" from not cutting down the forests? The list continues and the answers to the questions are crucial for the usefulness of future REDD activities: will they contribute to reductions of greenhouse-gas emissions or just make things worse by replacing reductions in industrialised countries with questionable forest-conservation activities?

Two issues that were raised during discussions were conservation of biodiversity and rights of indigenous people that live in the areas to be protected. Unfortunately Canada and some other countries did not want these concerns to be part an agreement on REDD. At the end of COP 14 a weak conclusion was reached that mentions indigenous people but only indirectly refers to biodiversity.

Continues on p. 4

We need NAMAs

It is becoming part of the negotiations for a global climate agreement that some developing countries should reduce their emissions, or at least reduce the growth of their emissions, but that they should do so with support from industrialised countries. To make that operational, developing countries should work up programs for National Adaptation and Mitigation Activities (NAMAs), to include activities that are measurable, reportable, and verifiable (MRV) that the industrialised nations can support with the confidence that it will actually lead to reductions of global emissions. Unfortunately no program of NAMAs exists yet, so for this important part of a future climate agreement there are still many uncertainties. Hopefully "somebody" will work on that, so a basis for an agreement at COP 15 can become clearer.



INFORSE delegates at the exhibition stall from left to right: Ursel Beckmann (WB, Germany), Emil Bedi (FAE, Slovakia); Judit Szoleczky (SEN, Denmark); Mamour Ba (ENDA, Senegal); Farida Hussain (AIWC, India); Lumin Kumar Shrestha (CRT, Nepal); Raymond Myles (INSEDA, India); Gunnar Boye Olesen, (OVE, Denmark).

Renewables to Reduce Poverty in Asia, Vision in EU & Gender

INFORSE Exhibition & Info Stall, & Side Event in Cooperation with WECF

The INFORSE network participated with 11 delegates as NGO observer, and several members also participated on their own. The INFORSE exhibition and information stall was busy during the whole conference from morning to late evening in all days. 500 newsletters and several hundreds of different brochures were distributed.

The INFORSE & WECF side event on December 6, 2008 was a success. It was attended by more than 50 people. The side event focused on how to use renewable energy to reduce poverty, the Zero Carbon Vision 2030/2050 in EU and the role of women.

All presentations of the side event and links to members activities are available at: http://www.inforse.org/europe/conf08_Poznan.htm.

INFORSE & WECF side event at COP 14. Gunnar Boye Olesen (INFORSE), Sabine Bock (WECF), Roque Pedace (Rejima, INFORSE-LA, Argentina)

Linking Energy Resilience to Climate Change Vulnerability & Adaptation in Africa

By Timothy BYAKOLA, *Climate and Development Initiatives, INFORSE Regional Coordinator, Uganda*

As Africa continues with its long battle to reduce poverty, climate change presents a simmering challenge that is complicating all development efforts on the continent. Not spared in this mix is the highly important and critical energy sector. This sector is highly vulnerable, as many countries on the continent rely heavily on power generated from hydro power dams and on firewood supplied from natural forests. Indeed, as incidences of droughts increase on the continent, competition for water for irrigation and energy generation increases as well.

In recognition of this important issue, Helio International is pioneering a very innovative project in Africa. The "Vulnerability – Adaptation – Energy Resilience (VAR) project is being implemented in eight countries, i.e., in Senegal, Mali, Benin, Cameroon, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Uganda. The objective of this project is to identify indicators and methodologies that can help the energy sectors in these countries adapt to climate change vulnerabilities by antici-

pating possible effects and taking steps to increase its resilience. Between October 30 and November 2, a workshop for the project was held in Mali Bamako, hosted by the Mali Folkecenter, a member of INFORSE Africa. The project results were presented by Helio International at a side event of COP 14 in December, 2008.

More: www.helio-international.org.



Helio's side event at COP 14, and the meeting at the Mali Folkecenter.



Ministers at the IRENA side event at COP 14.

IRENA Attracts Increasing Interest Start: January 26, 09

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), to be launched in 2009, was the issue of a side-event December 11, 2008 at COP 14 in Poznan, Poland. There, environmental ministers from Denmark, Spain, Germany, and Poland explained in front of a packed meeting room why it is essential to have an international organisation for renewable energy. They also welcomed more countries to join when the activities start with the inaugural meeting January 26, 2009 and later in a conference of member countries in June. In fact, an increasing number of countries have shown interest in the initiative, so it is likely to be a success.

Read more: www.irena.org.

INFORSE-Europe Activities

Sustainable Energy Visions for Belarus, Latvia, and Lithuania

Updated and improved versions of the sustainable energy visions for Belarus and Latvia were presented respectively on November 11, 2008 in Minsk and on November 13, 2008 in Riga.

The presentation in Minsk attracted substantial media attention, as national radio and television reported from it. The Belarus vision is now circulated to a number of national stakeholders, and will be used for a poster exhibition that Belarus NGOs will present in the beginning of 2009.

In Riga an updated version of the vision for Latvia was presented together with a number of other energy plans and strategies for Latvia. Most interesting was probably that the ministry of environment is doing a scenario until 2020 that has many similarities with the sustainable energy vision of INFORSE-Europe and the Latvian Green Movement.

The vision for Lithuania will be presented in December 2008, in Lithuania. Also the small regional vision for Latvia, Lithuania, and Belarus will be ready and available on the website at the end of 2008.

The updated visions are available at the INFORSE-Europe website.



Solar collector and a small biomass boiler at a child sanatorium in Kacergine, 20 km west from Kaunas, Lithuania.



2-MW wind mill in Lithuania. The 30-MW wind farm is under construction in Vidmantai close to Palanga at the Baltic Sea.

Sustainable Energy and Employment, Plans for Poland

A study by INFORSE-Europe, Polish Foundation for Energy Efficiency (FEWE) and Polish Ecological Club on Polish options and policies for energy efficiency and renewable energy is launching in December. It takes a new look at the opportunities and includes employment effects in the analysis. An interesting conclusion is that a transition from coal to biomass and energy efficiency will not reduce employment in Poland, as is claimed by the coal and power companies, but it might not increase employment much either because of the high employment in the Polish coal sector. If gas and oil are replaced with energy efficiency and renewable energy, there is a significant employment gain, because employment in the Polish oil and gas sectors is very low.

EU Sustainable Energy Vision

The EU sustainable-energy vision is being updated with trends since 2000 included as well as scenarios for Bulgaria and other new EU countries.

See the updated vision at the INFORSE-Europe website <http://www.inforse.org/europe/Vision2050.htm>

Sustainable Energy Vision for Bulgaria

When Za Zemiata and INFORSE-Europe presented a sustainable energy vision for Bulgaria on November 19, 2008 in Sofia, stakeholders and the press were very interested. In Bulgaria, discussions are in process over a national energy strategy, so the launch of the vision was very timely. The vision includes a transition to sustainable energy with focus on energy efficiency, solar energy and biomass, and other forms of renewable energy. The official plan includes increasing electricity use, more nuclear power, and more coal power.

The sustainable energy vision is now available at INFORSE-Europe's website, and we welcome comments that we can use to improve it.

EU Policy Seminar and Exhibition in Bulgaria

Following the release of the energy vision, Za Zemiata and INFORSE-Europe organised a seminar on EU sustainable energy policies, that was held on November 19, 2008, for NGOs and other stakeholders.

Implementation of EU policies in Bulgaria is not without problems and at the seminar we discussed among others the problems with the introduction of audits and labelling of houses following the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. The main problem was that the price was too high for the audits, so many people will have difficulties paying. The reasons behind this were that there were too few consultants authorised to do the auditing and that the government had not set a fixed price for audits of smaller houses and flats as is done in some other EU countries. Following the seminar, Za Zemiata will discuss with the relevant government agency some ways to make the audits more affordable.

EU sustainable energy policy for Bulgaria is also one of the themes of a poster exhibition that Za Zemiata and INFORSE-Europe has made, and which will be presented in December 2008, in Sofia.

The presentations in English from the seminar on EU policies will be available on the INFORSE-Europe website. www.inforse.org/europe/seminar.htm, and www.zazemiata.org

EU Policy



Edited by
Gunnar Boye Olesen,
INFORSE-Europe
Coordinator

*"EU, Where are you?"
Ice sculptures in front of
the COP 14 building in
Poznan, December 2008.
Action by Oxfam.*



Energy & Climate Package Agreed

On December 12, 2008, the EU prime ministers finally reached an agreement on the climate and energy package that includes a renewable energy directive, division of greenhouse gas reductions until 2020, and continuation of the European Emissions Trading System after 2012. The positive sides of the agreement are that the EU, as the largest economy in the world, is committed to 20% reductions of greenhouse gases from 1990 to 2020 and 30% in case of an ambitious international climate agreement, and that most of the power companies will not receive free allowances after 2012. The negative sides are that even 30% reduction by 2020 in industrialised countries is probably not enough to limit global warming to 2°C, that there is a lot of "flexibility" in the agreement such that most reductions can be made outside EU, that too many allowances are still given for free, and that there are strange subsidies in the agreement, e.g. for carbon capture and storage.

Renewable Energy Directive

The first part of the package that was agreed on December 9, 2008 between the EU countries and the EU Parliament was the renewable energy directive. It includes the expected target of 20% renewable energy by 2020, divided into national targets for 27 EU countries; a target for renewables in transport, including sustainable biofuels and electricity; and an initiative to ensure that all biomass is sustainable. It is now crucial that biofuel use really become sustainable and that we stop using biofuel from unsustainable production as soon as possible, including imports from tropical countries.

For the first time, heating and cooling, responsible for 50% of Europe's energy demand, will be covered by a European Directive promoting renewable energies. The solar heating industry is very optimistic that this can boost solar heating.

Emissions Trading after 2012

With the agreement, most power companies will have to buy greenhouse-gas allowances after 2012 rather than receiving them for free as they do today. The power plants that can continue to receive some allowances for free are existing plants and plants under construction in:

- Countries that have a connection below 400 MW, directly or indirectly, with the Western European grid UCTE, and
- Countries with less than 50% of the average EU GDP per capita and where more than 30% of the power is produced from a single fossil fuel.

The list of countries is not published in the conclusions, but it does include countries like Estonia, Poland, Czech Republic, Romania, Bulgaria, Cyprus and Malta. Power companies in these countries have to buy some allowances: 30% in 2012 increasing to 100% by 2020.

Industries will continue to receive most allowances for free, but not all, as they do today. Industries that are not subject to international competition (called "carbon leakage" in the jargon) will have to buy 20% allowances in 2013 increasing to 70% by 2020. Industries that are subject to international competition can get up to 100% of their allowances for free. There is a complicated system to determine whether a company or a sector is subject to international competition: if the auctioning will increase costs by more than 5% the company's value-added, and if its import and export exceeds 10% of turnover, the company is considered to be subject to competition. Companies can also be included if, for instance, their imports and exports exceed 30% of turnover. Most of the companies that are subject to international competition will have to buy some allowances on auctioning, though not so many.

Allowances will be divided among EU countries so most of the allowances (88%) will follow historic emissions (from 2005 or later). A smaller part (10%) will be given to the poorer EU countries, and the

last 2% will be given to EU countries that had reduced emissions by more than 20% from 1990 to 2005, with most of these allowances going to Romania and Poland. This last 2% is in a way the price paid to the Central European countries for accepting 2005 as the basis rather than 1990.

In addition to this, Lithuania and Latvia will receive additional allowances because of increased emissions after the Ignalina nuclear power plant is closed.

Maybe Later, International Support

There is no agreement to use the countries' income from auctioning of allowances to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions as well as to assist developing countries in reducing emissions and in adapting to climate change. This was proposed by the EU Parliament and by many others. The EU prime ministers promise, however, to discuss the issue again at their meeting in March, and it might be possible to have some kind of agreement on this. The contributions to developing countries might depend on an ambitious climate agreement.

Substantial Subsidy for Carbon Capture and Storage, and for Power Plants

While the prime ministers could not agree to support developing countries or renewable energy, they have agreed that income from auctioning of allowances for 300 million tons of CO₂ emissions will be used for projects demonstrating carbon capture and storage (CCS). With an expected CO₂ price of 30 Euro/ton, this adds up to a total subsidy in the mighty sum of 9 milliard Euro.

The countries can also use revenues from auctioning to subsidize new power plants up to 15% of the investment cost. The new power plants do not need to have CCS; it is deemed enough that they be "CCS ready". This decision seems to overturn part of the EU guidelines for state aid, in which it is not allowed for countries to give state support to power companies except for projects that are specifically for renewable energy, energy efficiency, or reduction of pollution.

Effort Sharing & CDM

For the sectors not covered by the ETS, there are also agreed reduction targets for each country, as proposed by the European Commission. Countries can overshoot by 5% and then “carry forward” their reductions, reducing more in later years. In case of extreme weather events, they can even overshoot more.

Countries can buy CDM credits to offset 3-4% of their 2005 emissions every year. In this way they will be able to offset a major part of the reductions that they have to do according to the effort-sharing agreement for sectors outside the ETS. The 4% is only allowed for 12 EU countries that have either high transport emissions or high renewable-energy targets, and for those countries the last 1% has to be from projects in least-developed countries.

proposal is to increase minimum efficiency standards substantially and update the labelling accordingly.

One of the next product groups to be regulated will be small combustion installations for solid fuel (wood, straw, coal, etc.). An expert group is working on the issue. In parallel to this, INFORSE-Europe is initiating a debate among NGOs on what requirements we would like for this kind of equipment to get better energy efficiency, more renewable energy, and lower air pollution.

South-East Europe, a North Sea Offshore Grid, a Southern Gas Corridor and effective liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies for Europe.

While energy security is important, it must not be an excuse for state and EU support for new pipelines and coal mines in the EU. INFORSE-Europe will follow the new package and try to influence it in a sustainable way. Positions will available on the INFORSE-Europe website, and we will send inputs to the public consultation that the EU Commission has started.

Ecodesign

EU Countries are Phasing-out Incandescent Lightbulbs

On December 8, 2008, the EU countries agreed to a progressive phase-out of incandescent bulbs starting in 2009 and finishing at the end of 2012. By enforcing the regulation of switching to energy-saving bulbs, EU citizens will save close to 40 TWh (roughly the electricity consumption of Romania), leading to a reduction of about 15 million tons of CO₂ emission per year. This will be done with an Ecodesign regulation that will require minimal energy-efficiency levels of lamps at a level of the best halogen lamps available today. Therefore consumers will still have the choice between long-life compact fluorescent lamps that currently yield the highest energy savings (up to 75% less energy than incandescent lamps), efficient halogen lamps, and LEDs. The first incandescent lamps to be removed from the market will be large wattages and the frosted types.

Coming Labels and Requirements for White Goods and Wood Ovens

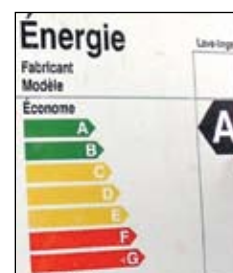
To prepare for a coming Ecodesign measure, the EU Commission organised a Consultation Forum with participation of INFORSE-Europe and many other on washing machines, dishwashers, and refrigerators on December 4-5, 2008. The

Strategic Energy Review - (Efficiency) Package

In November, the EU Commission launched a package of proposals and reports for energy efficiency along with a strategic energy review. The legal texts are revisions of the energy performance of the buildings directive and of the SAVE directive on energy efficiency. The package also includes a new strategy to build up “energy solidarity” among Member States, a new policy on energy networks to stimulate investments in energy networks, and a new “EU Energy Security and Solidarity Action Plan” which sets out five areas in which more action is needed for energy supplies according to the Commission. The areas and actions are:

- More effective support to projects to build energy infrastructure.
- Better use of indigenous energy resources, both renewable and fossil, in the EU countries.
- More attention to solidarity, including EU crisis mechanisms, oil stocks and a variety of mechanisms to respond to possible gas disruption.
- Additional and more urgent efforts to improve energy efficiency.
- Greater focus on energy in the EU’s international relations, including through establishment of relationships with supplier, transit and consumer countries.

The package also contains a Green Paper on energy networks that identifies six strategic initiatives as essential for the EU’s energy security: a Baltic Interconnection Plan, a Mediterranean Energy Ring, adequate North-South gas and electricity interconnections with Central and



Read more on Ecodesign:

INFORSE-Europe

http://www.inforse.org/europe/eu_ecodesign.htm

European Commission:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/demand/legislation/eco_design_en.htm

ECOS:

<http://www.ecostandard.org/>



Logos of the NGOs playing a large role as progressive, independent experts challenging the industry’s attempts to weaken the proposals.



February 9-13, 2009.

EU Sustainable Energy Week with session on sustainable energy visions, EUSEW Award Ceremony and others

Organised by the Sustainable Energy Europe (SEE) Campaign initiative of the European Commission DG for Energy and Transport.

Info: EUSEW, Brussels, Belgium.

W: www.sustenergy.org

News from SPARE



SPARE educates children about energy use and helps to reduce CO₂ emissions

By Olga Senova, SPARE

Expanding - The international SPARE school project is expanding its activity both geographically, as new Eastern and Southern European countries join the project, and thematically, giving more attention to the global climate change.



Updated Textbook

The textbook for secondary schools "Energy and Environment" was updated with a new chapter: "Climate Change". It is available in Russian, English, and several national languages.

Practical Actions

As before, SPARE is oriented toward practical actions, school activities for reduction of CO₂ emissions: application of simple energy-saving measures at schools and in homes; accessible renewables for local needs. SPARE NGOs in Central Asia and Caucasus introduce to local residents simple solar collectors for heating water, in all SPARE countries one top-priority activity is insulating windows.

In 2008, training in simple methods of windows insulation was organized in St.Petersburg, Russia for representatives of North-West Russian schools with the support of Russian Public Chamber. Just after the training, pilot schools in Karelia, Leningrad and Murmansk regions were repaired and insulated for less than 300 USD/window. SPARE NGOs disseminated experience and results among other schools all over the region. If all 1000 schools in NW Russia, where temperatures in classes are too low, will take these simple measures, temperature in the classes will be higher than 18°C and at the same time CO₂ emission could be reduced by 20-30 %, saving giga-watt hours of energy.



In every country the SPARE NGOs work on additional projects on climate and energy issues, attracting other resources to SPARE activities. Central Asian SPARE NGOs develop additional projects for introduction of renewable energy sources to local communities. Proactiva in Macedonia develops a big informational project. Russian NGOs in Siberia, Ural, implement a set of additional informational projects.

SPARE Competition

The third International SPARE competition 2007-2008, which was announced with the slogan "We can reduce greenhouse gas emission!", attracted hundreds of schools. The new competition category "Public Education" invited informational products created by school children to convince parents, friends, teachers, and residents of their respective communities of the necessity of lowering greenhouse-gas emissions, giving recommendations as to which practical actions can help to achieve these goals at school, at home, and throughout each locality. It could be a leaflet, newspaper, poster, video, or multimedia. Within the competition category for teachers, "Practical lesson on climate change", pedagogical materials about global climate change, possible consequences for each country/region, and practical measures for lowering greenhouse gas emissions were submitted.



International Seminar

At the annual international SPARE seminar-2008 in Karaganda (Kazakhstan), all national coordinators gathered and approved results of the international competition. 16 winners from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan got diplomas and prizes. Among the winners were practical projects on improving energy efficiency of a children's living room, construction of a small-scale hydro-power engine, composting autumn leaves instead of burning them, and insulation of class windows. Theoretical projects were about technologies for improving energy efficiency of buildings, effective electric-

ity use, and application of biogas systems for heating and cooking in villages. Informational products took various forms, e.g., leaflets, calendars, and multimedia.



SPARE-international is running mainly with a support of Norges Naturvernforbund (FoE Norway), and INFORSE-Europe.

More information: www.spareworld.org

Results of the First International Energy Saving Day November 11 in 2008:

- **In Russia**, a press conference for journalists was held in St.Petersburg, and at a conference of the Russian SEU, the Day was announced among representatives of NGOs from 45 Russian regions. Schoolchildren in schools of North-West Russia made energy audit of their classes, measured electricity consumption, temperature regime and decided how to improve energy conservation in their schools. 3 pilot schools, where in September the windows insulation was made, organised round tables and shared their experience among the neighboring schools
- **In Georgia**, the event was at the Aarhus Center Georgia. Among the organizers and participants of the event were representatives of OSCE, Tbilisi State University, Georgia Green Movement, NGO EcoVision, and schools from Tbilisi and Gori.
- **In Uzbekistan**, the Day was celebrated in 18 schools with about 190 participants.
- **In Armenia**, there was joint meeting with pupils of schools from 3 villages.
- **In Ukraine**, 45 school teachers as well as the representatives of the schools' administration participated in a seminar on methods of the training work with the children on the energy-saving. The seminar was carried out by the national coordinator of project SPARE in Ukraine with the organizational support of the Sevastopol Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



News from Romania



*By Ion Zamfir, Prietenii Pamantului
(Earth Friends), Romania,
Member of INFORSE-Europe Board*



Promoting INFORSE Vision 2050, New Romanian Climate Action Network; SPARE breaks the ice in Romania

In Climate & Energy Policies

We used the opportunities of being invited to take part in local, regional, and national meetings on energy and climate, organized by NGOs, public authorities, business, and governmental bodies. Participation in those meetings as invited representatives of a recognized NGO working on energy and climate issues gave us one more chance to present the INFORSE-Europe's vision and activities, as well as our position concerning Romanian Energy Strategy, and other programmatic documents.

A position paper was elaborated in a special meeting of Romanian NGOs with interest in climate and energy issues, part of them being members of a newly created and officially registered Romanian NGO Climate Network organized in Sinaia in the last week of October, 2008.

Seven of the most active Romanian NGOs took part in the meeting, along with the 10 members of RAC-RO (Romanian Climate Action Network). Businesses' and politicians' representatives were also present. An analysis of the energy situation in Romania, as compared with the strategy and the political programs of the parties involved in the campaign for general elections, showed the complete opposition between the Energy Strategy statements and the political programs. It was also possible to show the incompatibility (differences) between the political positions of a party before elections and those it took after winning the elections and getting the power to govern the country.

An excellent opportunity to express our position concerning Romanian energy policy was provided by the meeting we had in the Parliament's building in November. The parliamentarians as well as NGO and business representatives had a dialogue on discrepancies between the messages expressed by the government in international events and the national realities in terms of new energy facilities (lack of will in implementing thermal rehabilitation programs, lack of interest

in promoting and supporting renewable energy programs). A few days after this event, the Romanian Government announced the initiative of supporting 90% of the costs involved in installing renewable energy systems in individual houses and in schools and associations' buildings, along with 50% for businesses' buildings. We consider that the measure was adopted after the EU summit, when the government got the message and understood that it is the time to do something to show its commitment in implementing renewable energy programs.

In education:

We enlarged the number of beneficiary schools in the program SPARE - Romania, by visiting 6 new schools and working with teachers and students. Using the SPARE handbook in the educational activities was beneficial both for teachers and students. It was a visible change in our work impact. The students' feedback was evaluated and results are very promising.

Practical work and experiments with students in schools were the specific tools that we used to increase the students' interest in energy and climate issues. After years of experience, we can state that such practical activities and the experiments must be taken into consideration by the ministry of education for the national curriculum.

One very interesting experiment was to organize practical activities with students from high schools during the summer holidays.

We organized the activities together with Terra Milenul III and Alma-Ro, two active NGOs from Bucharest, and Mare Nostrum from Constanta. The summer camp was established in Vama Veche (a very natural resort in the south side of Romanian Black Sea Coast)..

The number of high school students was 45, from three different high schools in three different towns. Solar cooking boxes, a solar collector and small wind turbines were the products produced

with the cooperation of these students. The activities were successful; all students were involved. The teachers, who came with the students, were extremely interested to join us and expressed their interest in continuing the activities.

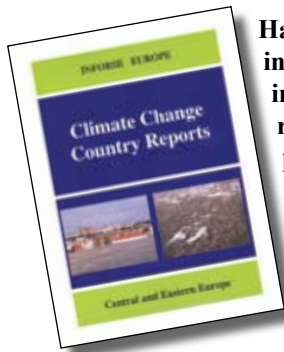
More information:

www.inforse.org/europe/VisionRO.htm

www.inforse.org/europe/schools/SPARE.htm



New NGO Climate Change 9-Country Report, CEE



Hard-to-find information in the media on the recent climate-change policy situation in 9 new EU countries of Central and East Europe. INFORSE-Europe compiled the NGO views.

By Emil Bedi
FAE, Slovakia,
INFORSE-Europe
Coordinator;



Different Countries: Similar Problems

These post-communist countries all face more or less similar obstacles with respect to their economical and social development. The present report makes available hard-to-find information that mainstream media consistently fail to report about the attitudes of ordinary citizens and of governments towards climate-change problems. The primary media's silence does not mean that climate change is not an issue in these countries; the truth is just the opposite. According to the latest EU-wide survey on attitudes of EU citizens towards climate change (Eurobarometer) there is a vast majority (between 63% and 89% of inhabitants) in each of these countries who consider climate change as a "very serious problem". Over 50% of citizens polled consider it to be the most serious problem currently facing the world as a whole.

The report not only deals with the attitude of the public, media and politicians towards climate change, but also provides information on development of renewables in this region. It is striking that at a time when huge renewable energy potential is still untapped, the development of fossil fuels (especially coal) is being promoted by a majority of governments in these new EU member states. Another item covered by the report is the huge profit made by fossil-fuel based industry through the EU emission trading system. It is obvious that with respect to sustainable development this system clearly failed by all means, resulting in windfall profits for the most polluting industries and power sector (coal power plants) and provided absolutely no input for the development of clean energy technologies in the region.

Unique Opportunity - not Used Yet

In fact, during this period of strong economic development, each country has a unique opportunity to remold a destructive, expensive, inefficient fossil-fuel-based economy into a healthy, efficient, sustainable one based on renewables, often nearly independent at local levels. Despite the fact that the new EU members are enjoying huge EU structural and cohesion funds right now, changing business-as-usual patterns unfortunately is not on the agenda yet.

Stable Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Another lesson to be learned from the report that is very timely right now during EU negotiations on the climate and energy package is the fact that emissions in practically all CEE countries were stable during the last 8 to 10 years, whereas the GDP growth reached 30-40 percent during this period. The decoupling of emissions and economic development could not be more visible. Thus, when it comes to future commitments and effort sharing, the position of new EU member states cannot be based on the presumption that they need more emission allocations in order to allow for the future growth of their economies.

Published by INFORSE-Europe.

November 2008, 46 pp..

*Edited by Emil Bedi, INFORSE-Europe
The publication is based on the views of the NGOs from each country.*

The NGOs are: Za Zemiata, Bulgaria; CTE, Czech Republic; Energia Klub, Hungary; LGM, Latvia; Community Atgaja, Lithuania; PKE, Poland; TERRA III, Romania; FAE Slovakia; Focus, Slovenia.

Download: www.inforse.org/europe/fae/CC/Cover.html (free)

Zero Carbon Britain



100 % renewables in 20 years.
We can achieve this by halving energy demand and installing massive renewable energy generation.

Read the report how.
Published by CAT, UK.

2007, 108 pp.

*By Paul Allen, CAT,
Member of the Board,
INFORSE-Europe.*

ISBN 978-1-902175-48-5

Download (free).

www.zerocarbonbritain.com

*Read the other INFORSE Visions on
www.inforse.org/europe/Vision2050.htm .*

Climatesafety



The new Climate Safety report presents recent climate science and delivers two important messages.

The first is that climate change is accelerating more rapidly and dangerously than had been predicted by most scientists, including the IPCC.

The second is that, because political maneuvering has delayed progress for so long, the imperative for extremely urgent action on national as well as global scales is now paramount.

The report goes on to discuss climate targets and solutions. As part of the solutions, deforestation must be halted within a decade or two at most and serious decarbonization of the energy sector must begin immediately.

Can the necessary reductions be achieved? Solutions are described, both tried and new ones.

The report is a good overview of the facts that most of us need to know about climate change.

Published by Public Interest Research Center (PIRC), UK. 2008, 52 pp.

ISBN 978-0-9503648-9-6

Download: www.climatesafety.org (free).

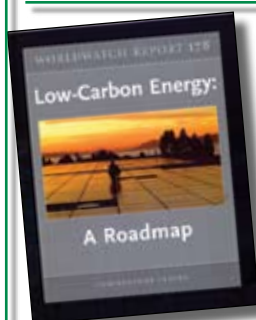
Publications



ERENE - European Community for Renewable Energy, Volume 3.

The feasibility study calls for that EU set itself ambitious goals. Though it only calls for 80% reduction of European CO₂ by 2050. It proposes a new industrial revolution with an increase in the efficiency of the use of resources and the coverage of the bulk of energy demands with renewable energy as its central theme. The study describes the diversity of the EU's potential for electricity generation from renewable energy sources and identifies the conditions necessary to make better use of these potentials.

By Michael Schreyer and Lutz Mez.
Published by the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin, November 2008, 94 pp.
ISBN 978-3-927760-94-3
Download: www.boell.de (free).



Low-Carbon Energy: A Roadmap

This new report from the World Watch Institute describes renewable energy and energy efficiency that will allow a rapid decarbonization of the global energy economy. The report finds that the transition is already ongoing with the growth of renewable energy. It goes on to say that this transition (or revolution) could be as momentous as the emergence of oil- and electricity-based economies a century ago. Advanced automobiles, electronics, and building systems will allow substantial reductions in CO₂ emissions at negative costs. Resource estimates indicate that renewable energy is more abundant than all of the fossil fuels together.

Published by Worldwatch Institute, USA,
Worldwatch Report 178
December 2008, 52 pp.
By Christopher Flavin, WI, USA.
ISBN 13: 978-1-878071-87-3
Download: www.worldwatch.org (free).

Climate Policies Improve Health:

"Action on climate change produces win-win-win scenarios. Tougher targets mean a win for the planet, a win for European citizens' health and a win for industry in reducing air pollution control costs"



The Co-benefits to Health of a Strong EU Climate Change Policy

Health savings of up to 25 billion euro could be achieved every year in the European Union if stronger climate policies were implemented, says the new study. Cutting greenhouse gas emissions would mean reducing the use of fossil fuels, which in turn would result in lower levels of health-damaging air pollutants, such as sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and fine particles.

By Dr M R Holland, EMRC, UK
September, 2008, 10 pp.
Published by HEAL, CAN-Europe, WWF.
Download: www.env-health.org (free).



The Costs and Health Benefits of Reducing Emissions from Power Stations in Europe

The report concludes that the average benefit-to-cost ratio for measures at the 100 most polluting plants in Europe is 3.4, i.e. the estimated health benefits are 3.4 times bigger than the estimated emission control costs..

By Mark Barrett, UCL, and Mike Holland, EMRC, UK.
Published by AirClim, Sweden.
April 2008, 62 pp.
Download: www.airclim.org (free).



Mitigation Options for India - The Role of the International Community

The report presents 3 alternatives to the continued strong increase in Indian greenhouse-gas emissions that must be expected with "business as usual" development leading to more coal power plants, cars, etc.

While "business as usual" is expected to lead to an 8-fold increase in India's CO₂ emissions by 2031, the suggested alternatives result in, respectively, a 5-fold, a 3-fold, and a 2-fold increase of emissions in the same period. While all scenarios include lower per-capita emissions in India in 2031 than in industrialised countries today, the choice among these scenarios will be an important factor in determining future global greenhouse-gas emissions.

Regarding costs, it is positive that all 3 alternatives are cheaper than "business as usual", with the cheapest being the scenario with the 3-fold increase in emissions. The extra costs of the most ambitious scenario compared with the cheapest is about 20 milliard Euro per year.

A question arises: Could India receive support from a climate fund that would enable it to follow a cleaner development path than the cheapest one?

Published by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India for UNFCCC COP14, Poznan, Poland.
December 2008. 22 pp.
Authors: R.K. Pachauri, Ritu Mathur, Atul Kumar, et.al.
More Information:
www.teriin.org.

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- Linking Energy Resilience to Climate Change Vulnerability & Adaptation in Africa
- IRENA Attracts Increasing Interest
Start: January 26, 2009

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- Sustainable Energy Visions for Belarus, Latvia, and Lithuania
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- Sustainable Energy Vision for Bulgaria
- Sustainable Energy and Employment, Plans for Poland
- EU Sustainable Energy Vision

EU Policy Update:

- Energy & Climate Package Agreed
- Ecodesign
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- INFORSE Online Database

1,000 Contacts - Online



INFORSE maintains a database of more than 1,000 NGOs and public officials, including as well research and educational institutions that are actively working in renewable energy. These contacts include all INFORSE members and span 159 countries. The online database can be searched by membership/contacts, country and name.

Check your organisation ! Corrections are welcome
Global database: www.inforse.org/regions

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INFORSE South-Asia CD

Manual on Solutions Using Sustainable Energy to Reduce Poverty

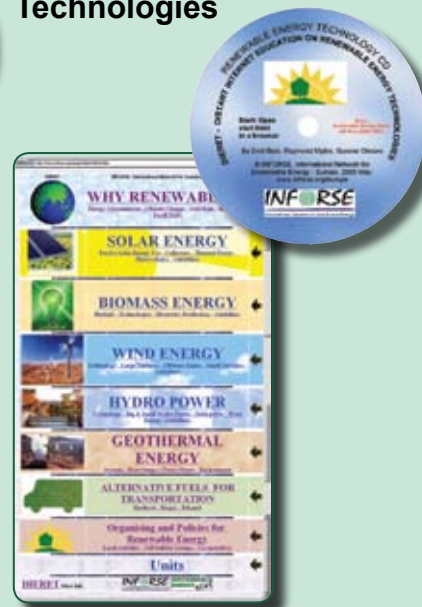
(in English, Hindi, Nepalese, Bangladeshi, and Singhalese) and Financial Manual (in English).

These manuals were produced through an INFORSE South Asia project using input from INSEDA, AIWC, WAFD and SDA from India, Grameen Shakti from Bangladesh, CRT from Nepal and IDEA from Sri Lanka as well as OVE and DIB from Denmark.

Published: January 2008;
Price: 15 € /CD,
1 year SEN + CD costs 35 €



DIERET - CD Distant Internet Education on Renewable Energy Technologies



Published: December 2007;
Price: 15 €
1 year SEN + CD costs 35 €

