

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS

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

No. 66, October 2009

Vision 2050 in Denmark

Activities:

- *Belarus*
- *Bulgaria*

Seminars:

- *Germany*
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Sustainable Energy News

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INFORSE

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Photo on the front page is
from UNFCCC, COP14,
Poznan, Poland, 2008.
"EU where are you?"

"Stop Harming, Start Helping"

Agents for Transition



to

Sustainability

"The guiding vision of a low-carbon society is not a crisis scenario; rather, it is the vision of liberation from an energy-sector trajectory and an energy-policy pathway that is expensive, risky and crisis-prone.

The future lies in a path that promises fewer resource conflicts, greater security, better environmental quality and improved prospects for the future of our children and grandchildren. Many members of society have already been travelling on this path for some time as individual pioneers of transformation.

The political elites will find it much easier to aim towards great goals of cooperation if they are supported at national level by civil-society mobilization and positive visions of the future that enjoy broad approval.

The courage which policy-makers display in untying the Gordian Knot of climate policy will then be rewarded, for they will be relieved of the burden of sole responsibility for accomplishing the required social transformation".

These are the *positive* final words of a recent report to the German government by the German Advisory Council on Climate Change.

The document draws an alarming picture of the herculean task ahead if the world is to reduce CO₂ emissions fast enough; details are described on page 3 in this issue.

In its final words, nonetheless, the German report sets a positive tone and ascribes a key role to civil society.

As a network of civil-society organisations, INFORSE is honoured by this role. *Living up to it will be a real challenge.*

The first task within the context of this pivotal role is to secure broad approval of our positive visions for a future without fossil fuels. We have been working on that for years in INFORSE, but we must involve more people as well as more organisations in our sustainable energy visions.

The new European Low Carbon Societies Network (<http://lowcarbon-societies.eu/>) for researchers and civil society organisations addresses this need.

Another way would be to expand the work on the whole range of sustainable energy visions, from local to national to global, in cooperation with other stakeholders interested in pursuing this form of planning.

The second part of the key role is to take away from the political elite the sole responsibility for potential transformations. Of course, we and many others in the civil society would like to do that, but we can only do it as far as the politicians are able and willing to share the responsibility.

This can be done in a number of ways with public involvement in decision-making, with more open political processes, and with increasing information levels of the public and in the media.

Then, but only then, the civil society can take real responsibility for the transformation to a sustainable society with minimal greenhouse-gas emissions.

Too often the changes are held back by vested interests in nuclear and fossil fuels and in wasteful production. They are also hampered by the lack of imagination and understanding among the economists who predict that the transition will be prohibitively expensive, and by the corporate decision-makers who do not see (or want to face) how their businesses can flourish in a more sustainable world.

The results of this are easy to see in the current climate negotiations, where the willingness to act is insufficient on all sides.

We need room for other voices if we are to achieve the necessary transition: we must include civil society as well as agents of change of all kinds. This must range from companies that will deliver the new solutions, to the many different groups that will take part in the transition and that will benefit from it.

We in INFORSE are ready to be part of that process.

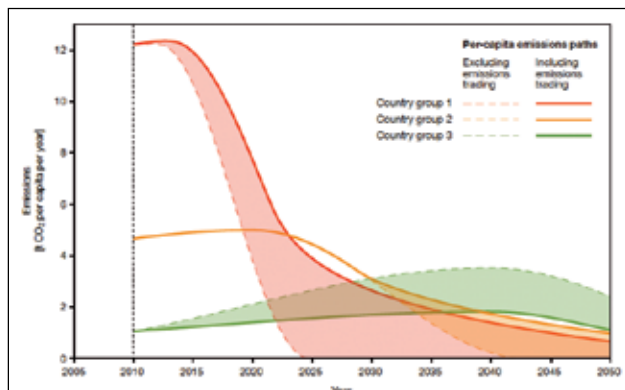
Gunnar Boye Olesen

Gunnar Boye Olesen
Co-ordinator, INFORSE-Europe





Examples of per-capita emissions paths of CO₂ from fossil sources for three groups of countries according to the WBGU budget. Country group 1 includes industrialised countries and other countries with high per capita emissions, group 2 includes countries such as China and Mexico, while group 3 includes countries with low emissions.



Don't Nuke the Climate

Most negotiators concur that an agreement must include reductions in some developing countries, and that the industrialised countries must pay some compensation for this. With this compensation the developing countries should be able to obtain energy with less fossil-fuel use.

The details of this potentially very large transfer have yet to be discussed, but the International Energy Agency (IEA) has proposed that the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in the future shall include nuclear and CDM, both of which are excluded today. It is important that any support for developing countries be used efficiently for the most appropriate renewable energy and energy-efficiency solutions, and not for nuclear power or for carbon capture and storage.

This is important because of the problems of the latter technologies, but also because the costs and uncertainties of these solutions are so high that emission reductions will be endangered. If the transfers are not reducing emissions in developing countries because they are wasted on expensive nuclear power, an international climate agreement becomes meaningless.

The organisation "Sortir du Nuclear" is organising a campaign for a nuclear-free climate agreement.

To read more and join the campaign, see: www.dont-nuke-the-climate.org.



Virtual demonstration on the web site:
www.dont-nuke-the-climate.org
By October 2009, 16909 people signed the campaign from 47 countries, and 659 photos has been sent his/her picture. There are 276 organisations which are partners including INFORSE-Europe.



A Danish windpower cooperative "Hvidovre Vindmøllelaug" will install new windmills just 10 km from the venue of COP15, as a reminder to the participants of one of the practical solutions to reduce the greenhouse gas solutions. Photo montage by Haslov & Kjærsgaard Architects.

Worse Climate Change Ahead

The German Advisory Council (WBGU) has analysed climate science findings again. They conclude that if we want to keep climate change to 2°C globally with 66% certainty, we need to limit global CO₂ emissions in the period 2010 - 2050 to 750 billion tons. This is about a 20% lower budget than in previous calculations based on work of IPCC. The WBGU goes on to propose a fair distribution of these emissions, leading to a phase-out of emissions by industrialised countries by 2025 on average and by high-emitting developing countries such as China and Mexico by 2042.

If the industrialised countries buy emission rights from the low-emitting developing countries, they can continue domestic emissions longer, but strong reductions are still needed domestically, such as 33% by 2020, 66% by 2025, and 75% by 2030. See Publications p.10-11.

COP15 Results ?

While it is hard to see how COP15 can obtain sufficient reductions in industrialised countries, a good guess is that there could be a consensus for limiting global warming to 2°C, for long-term goals (for instance for 2050), and for a framework for reductions until 2020 combined with financing of reductions in developing countries. COP15 might also result in agreements to reduce emissions from shipping and aviation, even though these negotiations are progressing slowly.

COP15 is not the end of climate negotiations, they will continue in 2010; but a big question is: Will we have anything to replace the Kyoto Protocol targets with when they end in 2012?

The negotiations are now continuing with:

- A new round of preparatory talks, September 28 - October 9, in Bangkok.
- The last official negotiations before COP15, November 2 - 6, in Barcelona.

Stronger IRENA, Going to Abu Dhabi



The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is now being established in Abu Dhabi, in the coming, large "Masdar" renewable-energy city development. The interim General Secretary, Hélène Pelosse, is moving to Abu Dhabi this fall. The formal establishment of the organisation still awaits ratification by member countries. Most likely the necessary 25 countries will

have ratified before the end of this year. IRENA has already started some activities: A workshop will be organised with IEA and others on scenarios for renewable energy in November, and IRENA will participate in a side-event at COP15 in Copenhagen. More activities are expected in 2010. Until the formal start, IRENA activities are governed by the Administrative Committee of IRENA.

Read more at: www.irena.org.



EU Policy Update



*Edited by Gunnar Boye Olesen,
INFORSE-Europe*



New EU Parliament

The new EU Parliament, elected in June, has now delegated the positions in the Parliament committees. In the ITRE Committee, covering industry, research, and energy, the new chairman is Herbert Reul (Christian Democrats, Germany), and the four vice chairs are Patrizia Toia (Socialist, Italy), Jens Rohde (Liberals, Denmark), Anni Podimata (Socialist, Greece) and Evžen Tošenovský (Conservatives & Reformists, Czech Republic). Claude Turmes (Green, Luxembourg) and Britta Thomsen (Socialists, Denmark), who participated in INFORSE-Europe seminars in Brussels, both continue as members of ITRE.

In the ENVI Committee, covering environment and public health, the new chairman is Jo Leinen (Socialist, Germany). The vice-chairs are Corinne Lepage (Liberals, France), Carl Schlyter (Green, Sweden), Bogusław Sonik (Christian Democrat, Poland), and Dan Jørgensen (Socialist, Denmark).

Ecodesign and Labelling Directive Recasts

The recast of the Ecodesign and Labelling directives to cover "energy-related products", such as windows and other building elements that contribute to energy consumption, was welcomed by the EU Parliament in April/May with some proposals for amendments. Following that, the EU countries have now agreed, at a ministerial meeting on September 24, to a compromise for the recast of the Ecodesign directive.

Then remains the recast of the labelling directive, proposed by the EU Commission in its November 2008 energy package. This is delayed by the dispute over the label classes (see above). Trilateral negotiations among the EU Parliament, Commission and countries, headed by the Swedish EU presidency, will go on in the fall. The hope is still to reach an agreement by the end of the year.

Estonia & Poland Win Case on Emissions Allowances

Two years ago Estonia and Poland complained to the EU Court of Justice about the decision of the EU Commission to reduce the greenhouse-gas allowances given by the countries to their industries as part of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU-ETS) for 2008-2012.

The reductions were, respectively, 26% and 48% of the allowances decided by the countries.

September 23, 2009, the Court of Justice, First Instance, made a decision against the Commission.

This decision to allow more emissions can undermine the EU-ETS, where prices already have slumped following the economic crisis.



EU Green Public Procurement

New EU guidelines for Green Public Procurement have been open for public consultations until the beginning of September. Among the proposals were guidelines for boilers, heat pumps, and air conditioners. European Environmental Bureau has commented on a number of the proposals and INFORSE-Europe added its comments, including strong critique of the proposals. None of the proposed guidelines is sufficiently ambitious regarding energy efficiency to be called green; often the requirements do not even reach the proposed levels of energy efficiency proposed in the Ecodesign work on the products.

INFORSE-Europe proposes that the guidelines for air-conditioners and heat pumps be completely reworked to eliminate fundamental problems in the draft. INFORSE-Europe comments are available online.

Regulation of Large Power/Combustion Plants

After the EU countries agreed in June to stronger requirements for air pollution from large combustion plants, power plants included, the process will now continue with a dialogue with the EU Parliament, as part of the revision of the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive. The countries agreed that new plants should follow the best available technology (BAT) for sulphur, NOx, dust, and other local pollutants only two years after the new directive will enter into force, which probably will be in 2010. Old plants should follow BAT from 2016, but there will be some exemptions possible until 2019.

The second reading of the EU Parliament will probably start in December and is expected to end in May 2010. A major question is whether the Parliament will propose regulation of greenhouse-gas emissions that are currently not covered by IPPC. That could suddenly make the proposal an important part of EU climate policies.

Tyres

A proposal from the November 2008 energy package is the energy-efficiency labelling of car tyres.

It is being agreed in negotiations between EU Parliament representatives and the EU countries represented by the Swedish presidency. The formal endorsement of the agreement is expected before December and the labelling will then enter into force by the end of 2012. The simple replacement of normal tyres with energy-efficient tyres can save up to 10% of the energy use of a car.





Building Directive in Trialogue

After the ambitious proposal from the EU Parliament in April for stronger requirement for energy efficiency in houses, the negotiations on the recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) now continue with three-way (trialogue) negotiations among the EU Parliament, Commission, and countries. Smaller issues are being resolved.

For instance, an agreement is on its way as to how countries can set stronger requirements for boilers, ventilations systems, etc. than the minimum energy-efficiency standards on the EU internal market.

The big issues, such as the Parliament demand for all new houses to be built as zero-energy houses by 2019, are still far from being resolved. There are still hopes for a compromise before the end of this year.

Energy-Efficiency Action Plan

A new energy-efficiency action plan for the EU is expected in October or November, 2009.

The main aim of the action plan is to turn the target of 20% energy efficiency by 2020 into reality with binding national targets.

The target was agreed by prime ministers in 2007 and is included in the energy & climate package from December 2008, but in an unbinding form and without implementation measures. This can be done with a directive that sets binding national targets, either as a new directive or as a changed Energy Service Directive that already has a national energy-efficiency target for 2016.

Probably the action plan will also promote white certificates on energy efficiency and promote the stronger involvement of energy suppliers in energy efficiency.

Renewable Energy Directive, First Deadline, December 31

Following the new renewable-energy directive that was agreed in December 2008 (dir. 2009/28), all EU countries are going to make renewable-energy action plans to show how they will meet their new renewable-energy targets. This includes not only their targets for 2020, but also how the development will proceed year by year until 2020. The deadline for the national action plans is June 30, 2010; but 6 months before, December 31 this year, all countries shall make a "forecast". This forecast shall include:

- Estimated production of renewable energy compared with a path to reach the 2020 target of the country, and as an effect of that, how much it could transfer to other countries to help them fulfil their targets or by how much it will miss meeting its target.
- Estimated potentials for joint projects with other countries, where one country can be involved in investments in another country to fulfil its own target.
- Eventually also costs and benefits of the proposed renewable-energy development as well as its financing.

A template for the national action plans is published by the EU Commission, and it is publicly available. Besides the questions about how to promote renewable energy and the expected results, the template also has room for the countries to report on how the action plan was developed and how the country involved its stakeholders, including the civil society. We hope there will be enough to report about on this in all countries.

Read about EU policies for sustainable energy at www.inforse.org/europe.



Should all new houses be zero energy buildings or passive houses as these from the Hjortshøj eco-community in Denmark? This is among the proposals for the revision of the building directive.





INFORSE-Europe participates
in the Cool Products campaign.



Ecodesign

While an increasing number of products are covered by Ecodesign measures, the process to cover new projects continues to be hampered by the row over energy labels, where the EU Parliament rejected a proposal of labelling the most energy-efficient product with A-20%/A-40% etc. (where the percentage is the reduction of consumption compared with the A-labelled product). Instead, the EU Parliament wants the most efficient product to be labelled "A" and wants the scale from A to G to be updated at regular intervals, e.g., every 3 years.

Label Survey with Questions

To help the dialogue among the EU Parliament, Commission, and countries, the Commission has organised a consumer survey asking 8000 consumers in 8 EU countries about their understanding of different labels. The survey shows that people better understand the A-G labels than A-20%/A-40% labels, while they understand the A+ / A++ labels equally as well as they do the simpler A-G labels. The difference is not large; only 72% of respondents answered correctly that a B-label is better regarding energy efficiency than a C-label, while 65% could identify an A-20% label to be better than an A-label. The survey showed that the update period of a label can be critical: only 59% identified correctly a new, updated C-label as better than an old C-label. The result of the survey differs from those of previous surveys, which have shown clearly that consumers have recognised the simple A-G label scale best of all. The survey has been criticised by EU Parliamentarians and NGOs. The EU Commission, Parliament, and countries will start discussions in October to find a solution to the impasse.



Logos of the NGOs (ECOS, EEB, CAN-Europe, Greenpeace, WWF, INFORSE-Europe) play a significant role as progressive, and independent experts challenging the industry's attempts to weaken the proposals.

The label issue continues to block the progress on update of labels of products where the models are now almost all A-labelled such as refrigerators and washing machines. In the meantime, Ecodesign measures with minimum efficiency requirements have now entered into force for televisions, electric motors, circulator pumps, and domestic refrigerators as well as for freezers. New measures are on their way with Consultation Forums for stakeholders in October on computers, computer screens, printers, and complex set-top boxes (boxes that both convert TV signals and have other functions such as storing TV programs). The Commission wants the industry to introduce voluntary measures for printers and complex set-top boxes instead of an EU regulation.

The hope is that it will simplify the work of the Commission, but it will create other problems, from lack of ambitions to free-rider problems.



An Ecodesign Regulation: Example Televisions

As an example of an Ecodesign measure, here is an overview of the new Ecodesign regulation on televisions, on which the legal text was published at the end of July, 2009. The requirements are:

- Televisions shall follow stand-by regulation (1 Watt; 2 Watt if there is a clock/display on). From August 2012, this will be reduced to 0.5 Watt/1 Watt. There is the exception that televisions with DVD, hard disks, etc. can have additional 1 Watt standby for each of these functions.
- From August 20, 2010, (a bit more than one year after the regulation was published) all televisions shall have a consumption of not more than 20 Watt + 4.3224 times its area in dm² times; for a 32" television that is about 153 Watt. A high-definition (HD) TV can have about 10% higher consumption.
- From April 1, 2012, televisions shall have consumptions of not more than 16 Watt + 3.4579 times its area in dm²; for a 32" television that is about 106 Watt, also for HD TVs.

- From August 2012 televisions must switch off automatically no more than 4 hours after the last user interaction.

The expectation is that this regulation will reduce the increasing power demand for TVs, so the expected consumption of televisions in the EU in 2020 will be 21% lower than without the measure. It will however, not lead to decrease in consumption, as the expected increase in power demand for televisions is 120% from 2007 to 2020, mainly because of the use of larger televisions and because of the change to HD TVs. With the measure, the increase will "only" be 73%.

The requirements are not hard to satisfy. A recent survey of televisions sold in Sweden showed that new 32" televisions have consumptions of between 97 Watt and 145 Watt, so only the regulation in 2012 will really affect the market in Sweden, at least for this size of televisions. However, some of the energy-wasting plasma screens can be phased out already in 2010 with the new requirements. And then there is the automatic power-down, so if people fall asleep in front of the television, they will waste less energy.

When the postponed measure on labelling of televisions eventually is adopted, consumers will be able to see the energy consumption of their future television in the shop and on the internet. If many consumers then choose the most efficient televisions, this can drive consumption down, in particular because manufacturers then will try harder to make energy-efficient televisions.

The Swedish television survey showed that energy-efficient televisions are not more expensive than those with higher consumptions and that they have the same picture quality.

Read more at:

www.coolproducts.eu and
regarding televisions in Sweden:
www.energimyndigheten.se/sv/Hushall/Testresultat/Hemelektronik1/.



INFORSE-Europe Activities

New Sustainable Energy Vision Launched in Denmark

A new vision with plans for phasing out fossil-fuel emissions in Denmark by 2030 was presented by INFORSE-Europe and OVE, the Danish Organisation for Sustainable Energy, in September, 2009.

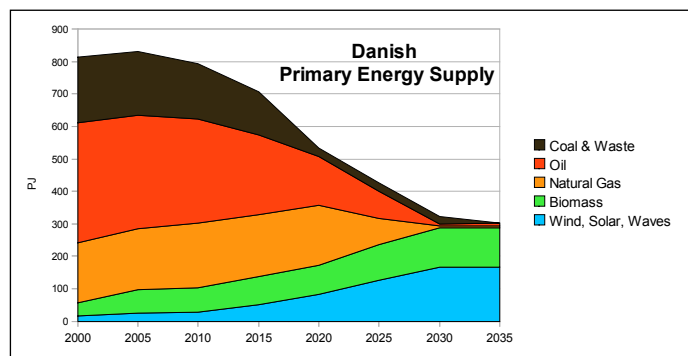
It was first presented on September 19 at 8 events around Denmark on a "Renewable Energy Day" and then, on September 21, in the Danish Parliament building.

The new vision shows in more detail than ever before how it is possible to cut energy-based CO₂ emissions to zero by 2030, combining energy efficiency in each sector with a much more efficient energy supply system and a flexible energy supply with storage of heat and of hydrogen. The major energy sources are wind, wave and solar as well as Danish resources of biomass.

The vision is based on detailed analyses of the available biomass resources, of the balance of the energy system, and other factors. With the EnergyPlan model, it is shown how a balance can be achieved between supply and demand for every hour of the year in 2030, with no fossil-fuel use.



The fast reduction of primary energy consumption and CO₂ emissions from energy are some of the remarkable results of the new Danish sustainable energy vision.



Some interesting conclusions from this are:

- There is no need for any additional power lines nor for an international super-grid to balance the Danish energy system. The proposed intelligent grid in Denmark is sufficient, including smart charge of electric cars and use of heat pumps when there is wind power available.
- It is possible to balance the proposed system such that only 1% of wind power need be curtailed (not produced) and so that 97% of heat can be used from thermal power production with combined heat and power (CHP).

The vision is described on: www.inforse.org/europe/vision2050.htm, including links to detailed descriptions (in Danish).



The Danish Vision presented in the Danish Parliament's building.



"100 % Renewable Energy NOW!"
Pictures from the "Renewable Energy Day" in Denmark, where the vision was promoted.

The publication of the vision is: "We Have Energy 2009"



Low Carbon Society Network Online

The network is now open for registration, which can be done online at www.lowcarbon-scenarios.eu (on the website, go to menu-item "database"). If you work on scenarios or plans for a transition to a low carbon / CO₂ emission-free future society, you should register here.

Join this new network of researchers and NGOs active in this important field.

The first network seminar will take place on November 10, 2009, at Artefact in Germany. Read more at: www.lowcarbon-scenarios.eu.



Outstanding Examples at Power & Place Seminar, October, CAT, Wales, UK

At the "Power & Place" seminar organised by Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) and INFORSE-Europe on October 2-4, 2009, outstanding examples were presented of renewable-energy use by local communities.

One such is the renewable electrification of the Island of Eigg, West of Scotland. Here, with support from the EU and others, residents invested in an island grid with windpower, hydro and solar PV. This has provided the 40 island households with a stable power supply, which they did not have before, and with modern capabilities such as electric cooking. It has also replaced the diesel fuel for the diesel generators with local renewables.



Another example is how renewable energy projects are organised around the Grenville Ham National Park, both in spite of and with the help of the nature-protection regulation.

The seminar was also about EU policies for sustainable energy, the new work of Zero Carbon Britain, and others.

Presentations will be available on: www.inforse.org/europe/seminar09_CAT.htm

Register !

INFORSE-Europe Seminar & General Meeting November 10-14, 2009 - Artefact, Germany

This year the INFORSE-Europe's Sustainable Energy NGO Seminar will be at the Artefact international centre for sustainable development near Flensburg in Germany. The Program:

- November 10: Low-carbon Scenarios
- November 11-13: Sustainable Energy Policies, Visions, and Practice
- November 14: General Meeting

Read: http://www.inforse.org/europe/seminar09_Artefact.htm.

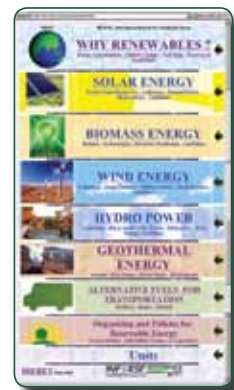


The venue of the seminar: Artefact center with its demonstration "Power Park", and low-energy clay buildings.

On-line Education in Renewables

A new course of the DIERET (Distance Internet Education in Renewable Energy Technologies) is starting again for NGO members and others who would like to get a basic introduction to renewable energy. The course is free to NGOs and will usually take 2-3 months as on-line learning. Successful participants will receive a diploma. The places for participants outside Europe are limited..

More: www.inforse.org/europe/educat.htm, and contact the coordinator, Emil Bedi, at fae@inforse.org.



Belarus Mobile Exhibition and Trainings

In September-October 2009, a mobile exhibition on alternative energy and a sustainable energy vision for 2050 were shown at all faculties of Belarus State University as well as at Sakharow Institute in Minsk, and will be shown in all 6 regions of Belarus in 2009-2010.

In August 2009, trainings were organised in alternative energy supply systems and eco-construction in Belaruchi, near Minsk in Belarus. More than 40 participants from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and Baltic States received theoretical, and practical knowledge of sustainable energy solutions like combined solar-wind energy supply systems, zero-energy straw-bale round ecohouses, green roofing, permaculture, etc. At the end of the program, a local green-oriented folk-rock group, "Cram-Bam-Bul", gave a concert.

These activities were implemented within the framework of an INFORSE-Europe project supported by the Nordic Council in cooperation with two Belarus NGOs, the Minsk City Division of International Association of Ecologists (MD-IAE) and Ecodom.

Read more at:
www.reenergy.by
www.inforse.org/europe/baltic_08.htm



Photos:

- Group photo at a training in August 2009.
- Evgeny Shirokov (MD-IAE) presenting the Sustainable Energy Vision.



SPARE in Bulgaria

The energy education programme SPARE is starting in Bulgaria, organised by Za Zemiata with support from INFORSE-Europe and others.

The SPARE textbook has already been translated to Bulgarian and adapted to national conditions.

The project has also been welcomed by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education, which will give it institutional support, a fact that will improve its dissemination.

The first SPARE training seminar for teachers will take place on 21st November, 2009. There is an explicit interest towards the program; so far there are about 30 schools registered for the training with 50 interested teachers.

The organizers are expecting more schools to enroll during October, 2009.

Energy Strategy in Bulgaria

Za Zemiata participated in a Round Table "The Future of Belene NPP", organized in the Parliament by the Parliamentary Commission on Energy and Economics. The national coordinator, Todor Todorov, expressed a strong position against the project, and presented the alternative energy scenario till 2050, done in cooperation with Bankwatch and INFORSE.

Za Zemiata organized meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Economics, Energy and Tourism, working in the Directorate Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection. It took place on October 9th and was regarding our required changes in the new National Energy Strategy by 2020.



EU Policy in Bulgaria

EU policy on sustainable energy will be discussed in Bulgaria at a seminar and a roundtable organised by Za Zemiata and INFORSE-Europe for November 25-26, 2009 in Sofia.

The events will focus on how Bulgaria can use EU policies better to increase energy independence, and what the new EU policies for sustainable energy will mean for Bulgaria. There will also be time to discuss the views of Bulgarian NGOs on new EU policies under development.

More:

www.inforse.org/europe, and
www.zazemiata.org/energy

Todor Todorov (left) at the press conference after the "Age of Stupid" film's premiere on September 22, 2009.

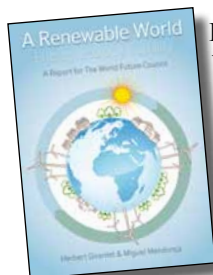
Publications



Prices for Renewable Energies in Europe: Report 2009

This report gives the prices that renewable-energy producers receive for electricity when they sell to the grid. It is the only up-to-date source for this important information. It allows investors to see the situation in all the countries and to compare among the countries.

Published by European Renewable Energy Federation (EREF), edited by Dr. Doerte Fouquet. Available online.
W: www.eref-europe.org.



Renewable World - Energy, Ecology, Equality

A report from Herbet Girardet & Miguel Mendonca for the World Future Council (WFC).

The report gives an overview of how we can meet the world's energy demand with renewable energy and, at the same time, supply other essential goods in sustainable ways, such that the resources are renewed.

Published by Green Books, 2009, £14.95
W: www.greenbooks.co.uk



Solving the Climate Dilemma: The Budget Approach

A report from the well respected German Advisory Body on Climate Change on how to share the small remaining leeway for emission of green-

house gases into the atmosphere (see also page 3).

WBGU, Berlin, 2009, 58 pages, free.
W: www.wbgu.de/wbgu_sn2009_en.html



Climate-Change Science Compendium

UNEP's new collection of recent findings from the climate scientists, including many of the latest data on climate effects and evidence of faster climate change

than previously predicted.

By Division of Early Warning & Assessment (DEWA), UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya.
W: www.unep.org/compendium2009/

Age of Stupid - the Film Seen in Bratislava



By Emil Bedi,
INFORSE-Europe/FAE,
coordinator, Slovakia

Beginning on September 21st, a new alarming movie, "Age of Stupid" (AoS), has been showing in more than 50 countries around the world. The film is about climate catastrophe, narrated by a fictitious character living in 2055.



The issues highlighted by AoS probably will be nothing new to environmentalists. All alarming facts are already well known and have been described in the scientific literature or in reports on climate change prepared by a UN scientific panel (IPCC).

One problem holding back developing renewables was also highlighted in the movie through the failure of a local wind-farm project in the U.K.

Definitely, there are many other, maybe greater, barriers to sustainable energy development besides this one (e.g., public perception of wind turbines).

But seeing the reactions of mostly young people during the presentation and discussion in Bratislava, I have to say that this is just the movie to provide more food for thought than any other film at this time. It was not only the climate risk upon us but also the behavior of multinational companies and "the new venture capitalist approach" in an emerging economy (India) that led people to ask "Where are we going? Is this really what we want or need?"

Experiencing the atmosphere in Bratislava, taking part in heated discussion, and finding total ignorance of media on the following day (only one newspaper wrote a short review), *I have to admit that the movie is right. We are really living in the "age of stupid"*.

The issue of climate change is hot and if the information is provided in attractive ways, the public (contrary to media or politicians) is willing to change behaviors. Daily we are bombarded by the media with broadcasts that hardly make us think, much less act, to begin to make critical changes.

The result is obvious: Ignorance of the public, at most some questioning of the basics of climate change or of the role of renewables in the future.

Watching the reactions of British people opposing a local wind farm in the movie, it is obvious that there is not much difference between them and us in Slovakia or in any other country not necessarily in Central or Eastern Europe.



INFORSE
joined the
"NOT Stupid"
Campaign

We have to ask ourselves: Do the people really comprehend what kind of risk we are facing? And it is not only the climate! Declining reserves of fossil fuels and ever increasing demand for them from emerging economies will surely lead to future shortages, price increases, and further economic crises until we learn that this is the way to hell.

Do the people really believe that the planet's resources are infinite, as politicians and industry are trying to tell us? Let's hope that we are not really living in the "age of stupid". Maybe it is just a huge opportunity for us. Maybe it is not too late. Maybe the movie will not be proved right in 2055. Maybe ...

Read more about the film and the "NOT Stupid" campaign at:

W: www.ageofstupid.net
Article in the previous issue of
Sustainable Energy News No. 65, p. 6.
W: www.inforse.org/s_e_news.php3

Events



November 10-14, 2009
European Sustainable Energy NGO Seminar & INFORSE-Europe General Meeting, Artefact, Germany
 Organised by INFORSE-Europe
Info: http://www.inforse.org/europe/seminar09_Artefact.htm
See article on page 9.

December 1-5, 2009
Pre - COP15 North-South NGO Workshop: How do We Meet the Challenge? Energy & Sustainable Development
Artefact, Glücksburg, Germany
 Register at: Artefact
Info: info@artefact.de
W: www.artefact.de



Events in Copenhagen during the UNFCCC, COP15:

December 7-18: UNFCCC COP15 (only for delegates, and observers)
Official Conference, 200 Side Events and Exhibitions

Place: Bella-Center, Copenhagen

Organiser: UNFCCC Secretariat and the Danish Ministry of Climate and Energy;

More: www.en.cop15.dk, www.unfccc.int

INFORSE's participation: http://www.inforse.org/europe/conf09_COP15.htm

Parallel events for everybody:



December 3-6

CPHCO2009: The Copenhagen Climate Exchange Forum, Conference, Exhibition, Music, Film of "Age of Stupid", and Concert at the Tivoli.

Place: Øksnehallen (Renovated old Cattle Market Building, 5000 m² located close to the Central Train Station), Entrance: 2 EUR

Organisers: The Danish Society for Nature Conservation (DN), the Sierra Club.

More: www.cphco2009.dk, www.dn.dk

December 7-18

Klimaforum09, People's Climate Summit'09

150 Workshops, 40 Exhibitions, 30 Films, Theater, Music (5,000 people registered)

Place: DGI-byen, modern big conference center, The complex also includes Øksnehallen (See above).

Organisers: Broad coalition of Danish and international environmental movements and civil society organizations including INFORSE.

More: <http://www.klimaforum09.org/?lang=en>

Note: INFORSE exhibits. INFORSE workshops on the 9th (Developing Countries and SPARE Education) and on the 10th (Scenarios, Vision 2050).



December 5-18

Climate Bottom Meeting: "Windows of Hope"

Conference, Workshops, Youth Forum, Children Program, Dance, Music, Food
 Cradle to Cradle, Waste to Art, Sustainable cities, eco-villages, indigenous groups, ceremonies from around the world.

Place: Christiania- Large, heated tents on the Meadow of Peace (Fredens Eng).

Organisers: Global Eco Village Network (GEN), the Danish Association for Sustainable Communities (LØS), Christiania Culture Association, two Agenda 21 Centers etc.

More: <http://www.dev.climatebottom.dk/en/>, <http://climateroots.org/>



December 12, Starts at 13.00

Climate March: "Planet First - People First"
Peaceful, family friendly demonstration

Place: From the Christiansborg Slotsplads (Parliament Square) to the Summit's venue at the Bella Center.

Coordination Group: The Climate Movement of Denmark, MS Actionaid Denmark, DanChurch Aid, WWF, Danish Red-Green Alliance Party, youth groups of the Danish Social Democrat Party and the Social People Party, and others.

More: <http://12dec09.dk/content/english>, www.klimabevaegelsen.dk



December 3-18

Calendar of NGO Parallel Events, Conferences, Art, Exhibitions

More: www.peoplesclimateaction.dk/uk/

Free accommodation in private homes: <http://www.newlifecopenhagen.com/>



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1,000 Contacts - Online



INFORSE maintains a database of more than 1,000 NGOs and public officials, including 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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http://www.inforse.org/order_form.php3

INFORSE South-Asia CD

Manual on Solutions Using Sustainable Energy to Reduce Poverty

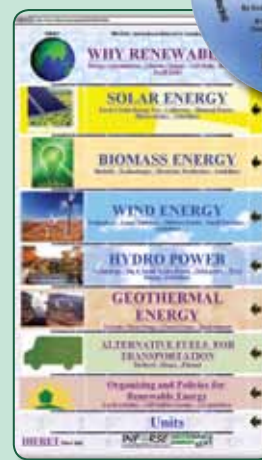
(in English, Hindi, Nepalese, Bangladeshi, and Singhalese) and Financial Manual (in English).

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: 2007-2008;
Price: 15 €
1 year SEN + CD costs 35 €.*

