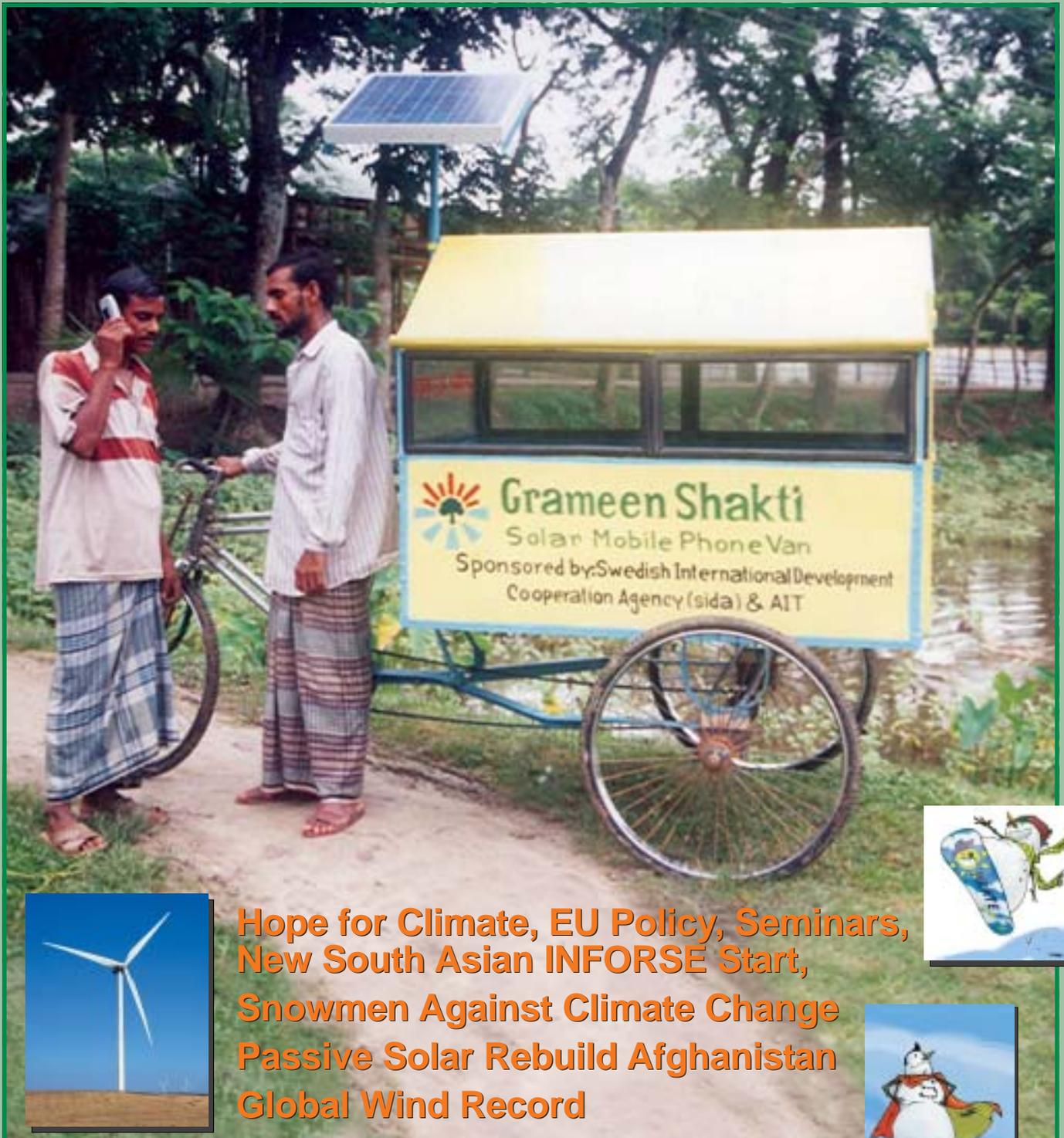


SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS

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

No. 48, March 2005



**Hope for Climate, EU Policy, Seminars,
New South Asian INFORSE Start,
Snowmen Against Climate Change
Passive Solar Rebuild Afghanistan
Global Wind Record**



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Photo on the front page:

- Solar-mobile-phone van shop. Photo by Grameen Shakti. See article on p. 8.
- Drawings from Snowmen Against Climate Change Campaign. See article on p. 5.
- Wind mill. Photo by Vestas. See article on p.10 & 11

Hope for the Climate

*"Snowmen in the Red Book"
(Text in Russian, see p.5)
NGO campaign to limit climate change*



Photo by GAMA, Russia

On March 10, 2005, the EU environmental ministers agreed on long-term targets for reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG): 15-30% reduction from 1990 to 2020 and 60-80% by 2050. This is not necessarily enough to avoid harmful climate change, including global temperature increases beyond 2°C, the ceiling that the EU countries have agreed global warming must not pass. Climate scientists tell us that the higher ends of the agreed-upon reductions, 30% and 80% respectively, are the very least that it would take to limit global warming to 2°C, and only if they were applied throughout the industrialised world.

An absence of targets might have given EU countries more room to negotiate international climate policy after 2012, but there is no more time to wait if we want a stable climate. The new targets for EU and the commitments that go with them show the will to act. Other countries must act as well, if we want to stabilise the climate; with a clear signal from EU it will be easier for them. Further, to meet the targets, technical solutions will be developed that the whole world can use.

In recent studies, researchers have found that the costs of GHG-emission reductions to stabilise the climate are considerable but affordable, maybe 0,6% of GDP. If energy-crisis costs were included in these calculations, it would tilt the economic balance decidedly in favor of the GHG reductions. The reduction of CO₂ emissions is strongly linked to fossil-fuel consumption. If this consumption is not reduced, EU's growing dependence on ever-scarcer and more expensive imported fossil fuels is likely to be much more costly than

any of the proposed climate mitigation measures. It seems clear that activities to reduce fossil-fuel use to stabilise the climate also act to stabilise the economies, shielding them from the most negative effects of the inevitable coming energy crisis.

Although the endorsed targets are hardly sufficient to stabilise the climate, we will welcome the ministers' agreement. They are a good framework for the upcoming discussions on the next Kyoto period of 2013-2017. Then, future stakeholders can discuss the need to strengthen the targets for the following periods.

Just now it is essential that the agreements among the environmental ministers be followed by decisions by the governments. The targets must be confirmed on the highest level in the 25 EU countries. Measures to reach the targets must be agreed upon, nationally and at the EU level. They must be implemented via new national actions, via new EU-wide initiatives, and with cooperation beyond the borders of the EU countries.

As NGOs, we will follow the progress of the new initiatives. We will press for the widest involvement of the citizens in their roles not only as energy users; but also of decision-makers, investors, and concerned citizens. Public involvement, along with the positive local effects of energy efficiency and renewable energy, must be emphasized and manifested in practical solutions from more efficient vehicles, more public transport, more bicycles, to more efficient housing with lower heating bills, and to renewable energy that creates jobs.

Gunnar Boye Olesen
Editor, INFORSE-Europe Coordinator

Is the Perception of Climate Change Gendered?



Report from workshops at COP-10 in Buenos Aires.

Sent by Ulrike Roehr, LIFE/WECF.



Demonstration at COP10 in Buenos Aires.

Photo by FOE Argentina. www.amigosdelatierra.org.ar

Do women see both the risks and the solutions to climate change in a different way from men?

This was one of the issues debated by a group of men and women from developed and developing countries during a day of side events on gender and climate change at COP-10 in Buenos Aires. Although hard and fast answers to this question are difficult to establish – as well as the question of whether any such difference is the result of nature or nurture – a number of ways in which women's attitudes tend to be different from men's could be observed.

First, cases were cited in which women had a risk perception which seemed to suggest that the threat was wider than the single event. For example, in Bangladesh, women linked the flood to difficulties in obtaining food and potable water, as well as to protecting their assets. Not for them the abstract "big bang" view of the disaster. Rather, they viewed this extreme event within the context of their chronic day-to-day problems. Men in the same context, on the other hand, tended to focus on impacts on longer-term income and food security.

Secondly, within the discussions that took place, it was noticeable that many women present had less faith that the global and national solutions being proposed in the Kyoto process would, on their own, be sufficient. They looked in addition for a grounded approach that would explore, in a participatory way, local community solutions, particularly those that involve behavioural change and structural change as well as technological innovation.

The doom scenarios which see environmental collapse on every corner from desertification through coastal erosion to ecosystem collapse were discussed. Several women professionals present, however, demonstrated optimism in their arguments, based on recognition that life-

styles could and would change, a view which perhaps relates to an ideology of the women's movement, that the personal is the political. It is an optimism that recognises that people (individually, and then collectively), rather than things, power change.

The lack of representation of women's organisations in the whole Kyoto discussion process is quite noticeable. But this may reflect not so much a lack of interest by women as these discussions are so very narrowly focused on technological and market solutions. Few women would deny that technology and the market have an important role to play in mitigating climate change, but many would like to see a broader approach recognising that people are at the centre.

There are of course many other issues regarding gender and climate change apart from differences in women's and men's perceptions of the problem.

Above all there is a need for differences in gender to be picked up and highlighted in any tools and instruments used to design and access interventions (both mitigation and adaptation).

A detailed paper that makes recommendations are available

- UNFCCC website, on the
- Gender and Climate Change website
www.gencc.interconnection.org, and
- LIFE/genanet website
www.genanet.de.

For more information please contact:

Ulrike Roehr, LIFE/WECF
e-mail: roehr@life-online.de,
and Phil O'Keefe, ETC Foundation e-mail: phil@etcuk.org.

This article is a follow-up on the "Women and Energy" Themes in the Sustainable Energy News issue Nr. 47, December '04, & Nr. 32 in February '01.

UN Education Decade

The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014) was



officially launched on March 1, 2005 in New York. UNESCO developed a draft International Implementation Scheme (IIS), which can be downloaded from the UNESCO web site.

The vision is a world where everyone has the opportunity to benefit from quality education and learn the values, behaviour and lifestyles required for a sustainable future and for positive societal transformation. This vision sets 'a sustainable future' at the heart of our common human endeavour.

More info: portal.unesco.org/education/

New Energy-Sustainability Observation Initiative



The INFORSE member HELIO is starting a new initiative entitled, "Energy-Sustainability Observation and Analysis – ESOA", in cooperation with the International Institute for Sustainable Development in Canada. It will be a multi-country integrated analysis of energy trends and of strategic policy action. The intent is to present an independent analysis of current energy trends as well as of the policies and policymaking processes that drive them. The analysis is expected to include 27 countries worldwide, with results to be available by the beginning of 2006, well before the UN Commission for Sustainable Development's energy session, slated for April, 2006.

More info: www.helio-international.org

INFORSE- Europe 2005

By Gunnar Boye Olesen
INFORSE-Europe
Coordinator



Action Plan for 2005

In 2005, INFORSE-Europe will continue its activities with support from the European Commission's Directorate General for Environment. In spite of lower support than in 2004, most of the activities agreed for 2005 will be carried out, including:

- 4 issues of Sustainable Energy News
- online Sustainable Energy contact list
- Distance Internet Education (DIERET) with a new round and sale of CDs.
- regional and national visions for sustainable energy. A Danish vision is under development and visions for other countries will be prepared at members' requests. The vision for EU will also be developed further.
- energy and climate education activities will be continued, coordinated by West Wales Eco Centre
- general meeting and seminars as described below
- follow development in EU, taking an active part in formulation and implementation of European policies for sustainable energy.
- special emphasis on structural and cohesion funds, to increase their use for local, sustainable energy solutions.

See Action Plan at
www.inforse.org/europe/.



Central-Asian Conference & Tour, Kazakhstan, November 14-16, 2005

Ecomuseum and INFORSE-Europe organise an international conference on renewables with special focus on biogas. The conference is in the framework of a EuropeAid supported project on establishing a biogas center in Kazakhstan. There will be a technical tour, and exhibition possibilities. The language will be English and Russian with translations.

There is travel support available for INFORSE member organisations in Central Asia.

More info: Karaganda Ecomuseum, REA from Ukraine, and INFORSE-Europe Secretariat.
e-mail: ove@inforse.org
bc_conference@nursat.kz
www.ecomuseum.freenet.kz



Participants of the INFORSE-Europe Seminar at CAT in 2003

European Seminar, on "hot" EU Energy Topics June 15, 2005 Brussels

INFORSE-Europe is organising a one-day seminar on "hot" EU energy topics, including new directives and strategies, climate strategies and targets, biomass, renewable energy for heating, and the "everlasting" subsidies for fossil and nuclear energy.

With speakers from NGOs, industry, and EU administration, we expect to have an interesting seminar. Presentations and constructive discussions will take place on a number of issues.

The participation fee is 100 Eur including lunch and refreshments, but the event is free for INFORSE-Europe members. The seminar is being organised in cooperation with European Renewable Energy Federation (EREF) and European Forum for Renewable Energies (EUFORES).

More info: INFORSE-Europe_ove@inforse.org

European Sustainable Energy Seminar, September 12-18, 2005 Romania

As announced in the previous Sustainable Energy News, INFORSE-Europe is organising a seminar to be held in September on the Romanian Black Sea coast, in cooperation with Earth Friends, Galati, Romania, and others.

The seminar will be used for discussions on European policies and strategies for sustainable energy, as well as on the challenges of increasing the level of practical activity for sustainable energy in the new EU countries and their Eastern neighbours. Discussions of present and future cooperation among NGOs for sustainable energy will be an important part of the seminar.

The seminar will be open to NGOs, with a modest participation fee.

Limited grants for participation will be available for INFORSE-Europe members from the INFORSE-Europe core funding.

Part of the seminar will be the annual general meeting of INFORSE-Europe.

For information and participation, please contact INFORSE-Europe_ove@inforse.org, and Ion Zamfir, Earth Friends, Romania. e-mail: earthfriends@rdslink.ro.



Photo from the Center where the seminar in Romania is planned in September 2005.

INFORSE-AGREE.NET Seminar Solta, Croatia August 16-21, 2005

Organised by the INFORSE member organisation Green Action, FOE Croatia. More information: Daniel Rodik, e-mail: daniel@zelena-akcija.hr, and ove@inforse.org

Read more about the above seminars at:
www.inforse.org/europe/ or contact e-mail: ove@inforse.org.

INFORSE in Wels, Austria

Vision 2050 Proved to be Realistic



By Emil Bedi,
INFORSE-Europe
Coordinator, FAE
Slovakia

INFORSE participated in the poster exhibition of the World Sustainable Energy Days 2005 on March 2-4, 2005.

The posters focused on our activities, among others the Vision 2050, and the online and the school education. We distributed the INFORSE-Europe brochures and the most recent issues of the Sustainable Energy News, copies of which were taken eagerly by many attendees.

The event was organised by the Upper Austrian Energy Savings Agency. It offered a unique combination of features, such as the European Pellets Conference, followed by the seminars on Innovative Public and Commercial Buildings, Energy Sustainable Communities, poster presentation and a large Energy Saving Exhibition.

Sustainable Energy Days are held every year. The Austrian city of Wels has become probably the most important meeting place of experts on renewable energy technologies in Central Europe.

Vision 2050

At the poster exhibition, INFORSE's "Vision 2050" generated big interest. It should be stressed that we were the strongest environmental grass-root NGO network organization presented here.

Our vision of a fossil-free energy future seems to be really convincing at



events like this. Upper Austria covers 30 % of its primary energy from renewables, with more than half of it coming from biomass and solar (achieved in less than the decade).



Thus, more than 600 participants of the conference had the opportunity to confront our vision with the reality and ambitious plans of this

Austrian region with its 1,5 million inhabitants. According to governmental plans the doubling of share of the biomass and solar energy in the next 10 years will lead to almost 50 % coverage of primary energy by the renewables here.

Growth like this means that our target year for fossil-free energy future is more than realistic even for highly developed European regions.

Photos shows the INFORSE-Europe poster exhibition, which generated big interest.

Snowmen Against Climate Change Actions in Russia and Finland



**Save snowmen!
Stop global warming!
Renewable Energy - Now!
Getting hot -
stop burning fossils !**



By Elena Klyuchnikova, GAIA,
INFORSE member, Apatity, Russia.

On February 4-6 2005, Apatity residents took part in the international event "Snowmen Against Climate Change". The action was organized by the international ecological organization "Friends of the Earth" and was held simultaneously in Russia, Finland, and Sweden. The organizers of the action in Apatity were the INFORSE-Europe member organization GAIA along with the 4H Union.

The most active participants (about 150 people) were schoolboys and kindergarten pupils as well as their parents and teachers. They constructed about 20

snowmen, made colorful posters and thought up slogans in protection of snowmen and against global warming:

The main goal of this action is attraction of attention to climate change. One of the causes of the current climate change is anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs). The basic source of greenhouse-gas emissions is the energy sector. In the Murmansk area, it accounts for more than 70% of the total.

What can we do to help stabilize the climatic system? We can reduce emissions of greenhouse gases! For this purpose it is necessary to develop renewable energy and to use energy effectively. During the event, we distributed leaflets that presented simple methods of energy-saving. Active participants have received booklets entitled, « Climate change - problems and solutions », issued by GAIA environmental center with support from the Norwegian Society for Nature Conservation.

The event was fun, and we, GAIA and 4H, have decided to repeat it annually.



More info:
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184209 Apatity,
Murmansk, Russia.
Fax: +7 8155575553
gaia@aprec.ru

"Snowmen against Climate Change"
"Snowmen for Renewable Energy"
"More Wind Power, Fewer Tornadoes!"
"Stop Burning Coal! We are Melting!"
"Make Snowmen, not Climate Change"
"Make Love, not Climate Change"
"NO to Climate Change!"
"No Snowmen in 2050???"

Photos by GAIA, Russia.
Drawings from FOE Finland
www.maanystavat.fi





Read more about
EU
sustainable energy
policy at

[www.inforse.org/
europe/](http://www.inforse.org/europe/)

New Czech Renewable-Energy Sources Act

By Klara Sutlovicova, Centre for
Transport and Energy, INFORSE
member Czech Republic

The Renewable Energy Act was approved by the Lower Chamber of the Parliament of the Czech Republic on February 23, 2005 after over a year of discussion.

Its major aim is to reach the domestic target of 8% electricity consumption from renewable energy sources (RES) by 2010. This target was agreed in the accession treaty to the European Union. The Act provides two ways to obtain support for electricity from renewable energy sources. The owner can choose either to get a guaranteed (higher) price for RES electricity for 15 years or to sell the electricity at the current normal price and get a special financial bonus; the latter option was inspired by the Spanish system. The electricity produced by co-firing of the biomass with coal may be supported only by the bonus system. The amount of the bonus and the price for RES electricity per kWh will be set by the State Energy Regulatory Office. The amounts of both the RES kWh and the bonus can change only by 5% from year to year i.e., it is guaranteed that the price will be almost stable. The Act does not allow for support of renewable heat and, on the contrary, allows support for large hydropower plants, which is a subject of criticism by environmental NGOs.

The Act is now subject to approval by the Upper Chamber of the Parliament and by the President. However, due to the present political situation, all possibilities are still open, including rejection, changes or approval.

More info: Centre for Transport and Energy, Jicinska 8, 130 00 Praha 3, Czech Republic. Ph: +420 274 816 571, e-mail: cde@ecn.cz, <http://cde.ecn.cz/>

New EU Climate Policy

Since December, 2004, when the German environmental minister proposed an EU target of 30% greenhouse gas reduction for 1990-2020, the debate about an EU target has been rolling. The German government has proposed a higher target of 40% reductions, at least for Germany. The countries generally agree that climate change should be limited to 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and that this will require substantial greenhouse gas reductions; but few support the ambitious German target.

Some NGOs and scientists have pointed out that in order to limit climate change to 2°C or less (which EU supports), industrialised countries should reduce emissions by 40% no later than 2020, and that some countries with high emissions should go further, aiming at 45-50% reductions.

The EU Commission released a communication of post-2012 climate policies in February, entitled, "Winning the Battle Against Climate Change" (SEC 2005-180), in which it states that "Doing nothing is not an option"; but it also concluded that it is ".....not recommending the adoption of a specific EU target at this stage." The Commission has a number of other proposals, such as implementing policies to reach the present target for 2008-2012, including climate issues in EU's cooperation with other countries, beginning an energy efficiency initiative, and starting a new European Climate Change Programme.

At the EU environmental ministers' meeting on March 10, the ministers concluded, "the EU .. believes that, ..., reduction pathways by the group of developed countries in the order of 15-30% by 2020 and 60-80% by 2050 compared to the base line envisaged in the Kyoto Protocol should be considered". This is in practice a new EU-target for 2020, and it goes beyond the proposal of the Commission.

The ministers also endorsed the ideas of a new energy efficiency initiative, a new European Climate Change Programme, a phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies, and focussing development banks' energy lending to low-carbon solutions.

Now it is up to the countries to back their energy ministers with targets and actions on national levels.

EU Parliament for High Efficiency Targets

At debates about the proposed directive for energy end-use efficiency, the European Parliament's environmental and energy committees proposed higher efficiency increases than the 1% per year included in the original proposal. It is expected that the Parliament will vote on this in April, and then the countries will discuss the proposal again. Unfortunately the countries are not welcoming strong targets; they favour indicative (voluntary) targets, maybe as individual targets for each country.

Other "sustainable energy" directives under discussion:

- The Eco-design directive that is the basis for energy efficiency standards will be discussed in the Parliament.
- Linking EU's energy markets with the Balkan countries, Romania, Bulgaria, and Turkey. Unfortunately environmental concerns are limited in the proposal.
- New rules for Trans-European Networks that will increase EU-support for these electricity and gas networks without much concern for sustainable energy.
- Directive for security of electricity supply, from which the EU energy ministers proposed to remove provisions for demand-side measures at their meeting in December. Now it is up to the EU Parliament to re-introduce these provisions this Spring, if the Parliamentarians decide so.

In addition, the EU Commission is preparing a number of initiatives, including a green paper for energy efficiency, a biomass action plan, an evaluation of the renewable electricity directive, and, maybe, a new directive to promote renewable energy for heat. At least it has promised an initiative for renewables heat; but it is taking a long time to keep that promise.

The Commission is also preparing a new framework for structural funds, and a continuation of the main sustainable energy support programme, "Intelligent Energy for Europe". Unfortunately, a Commission discussion paper proposes to combine this programme with a number of other technology promotion programmes, a proposal that INFORSE-Europe and many others protested in a public consultation in January.

Complaint Against Slovak Nuclear State Aid

Friends of the Earth Europe and two Slovak NGOs have filed a complaint against a plan to levy ALL electricity consumers in Slovakia to fund future nuclear decommissioning.

The present decommissioning fund contains less than 10% of the necessary funds; and the Slovak government is planning to sell a majority-share of the national power company "Slovenske Elektrárne"; but exempt the buyer from the obligation to all the remaining costs for the nuclear decommissioning. This will distort competition in Slovakia. This practice is unlawful under EC law. The Commission's Competition directorate will investigate the case.

Info: www.foeeurope.org/press/2005/J_3_Feb_nuclear_state.htm

Municipalities Rewarded for Climate Actions

In February 2005, 22 European municipalities received a "Climate Star" award for their commitment to climate protection. The projects honoured ranged from solar energy use in publicly-assisted housing construction, to biomass CHP in cities, to clean hydropower. The award's were given by the "Climate Alliance", a network of over 1200 municipalities in Europe.

Read more: www.climatealliance.org

Support for Danish INFORSE members

The Danish INFORSE members Folkecenter for Renewable Energy and Danish Organisation for Sustainable Energy (OVE) will receive funds for energy information activities in Denmark.

The funds come from the levy charged on Danish energy consumers to promote energy conservation. In cooperation with the Danish association of energy and environment information offices, OVE will work through a network of new and re-established energy information centres and local offices. The new funding level is lower than that cut by the liberal/conservative Danish government in 2002. Nonetheless, it is an important contribution towards continued Danish development for sustainable energy.

Read more at www.ove.org, and www.folkecenter.

Aarhus Convention Ratified by EU

- Milestone to Environmental Democracy

On 27 February 2005, the European Community ratified the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

The new ratification will bring the total number of Parties to the Convention to 35 by the time of the second meeting of the Parties, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 25 May 2005.

The Aarhus Convention is the world's farthest-reaching treaty on environmental rights. It seeks to promote greater transparency and accountability among government bodies by guaranteeing public rights of access to environmental information, providing for public involvement in environmental decision-making and requiring the establishment of procedures enabling the public to challenge environmental decisions.

The Convention was adopted in Aarhus, Denmark, in June 1998, and signed by 39 European countries and the European Community. It entered into force in October 2001 and its Parties now include most of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and three-quarters of the EU member States.

As a direct result of the Convention, an increasing number of UNECE countries are expanding their laws guaranteeing the rights of citizens to shape their environmental future. The commitment to environmental democracy made by UNECE Governments now rests largely on the successful implementation of those laws.

Over the past few years, the European Community has developed various pieces of legislation in preparation for ratification, including directives on access to information and public participation.

However, the fact that the European Community has ratified the Convention does not mean that all of its 25 member States automatically become Parties. Each must ratify separately, and to date six member States have yet to do so: Germany, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Slovakia and Sweden.

More info:

- Secretary to the Aarhus Convention, UNECE, att. Jeremy Wates, public.participation@unece.org, www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/aarhus/index.htm
- NGO participation on May 25, 2005 contact: Mara Salina, European EcoForum/EEB, mara.salina@eeb.org www.eeb.org, www.participate.org



German "Artefact" Centre Becomes UN Project

The INFORSE member Artefact in Northern Germany has been selected as one of the projects for the UN Decade "Building for Sustainable Development", 1995-05.

Artefact was chosen in recognition of the centre's many activities to demonstrate and promote sustainable building, including provisions for sustainable energy.

Every year more than 3000 pupils visit the centre, and during the warm season the centre's energy park is open for visitors that can experience demonstrations of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Read more: www.artefact.de. Sustainable Energy News had articles on Artefact in the issues of February 1999 (No. 24, p. 12), and of December 2002 (No. 39 p. 12)

INFORSE South Asia News

INFORSE South-Asia Cooperation Project 2005-06

Starting this March, organisations of INFORSE South Asia are starting cooperation on a joint project to strengthen the capacities of NGOs to incorporate sustainable energy into their work for poverty reduction. The participating organisations are INSEDA and AIWC from India, IDEA from Sri Lanka, CRT from Nepal, and Grameen Shakti from Bangladesh. The project is supported by the Danish Small Grant Facility for NGOs' development projects; it involves the Danish Organisation for Sustainable Energy (OVE) and the Danish International Settlement Service (DIB). The project will focus on training in practical solutions with new training materials in English and in the four national languages; seminars for NGOs in the four countries; an additional focus on NGO involvement in national policies and strategies; and strengthening of the INFORSE network in the region. The project will last two years, and will start with an inception meeting at the end of March in Sri Lanka.

News from the project will be posted on the INFORSE website's new regional sub-site for South Asia at www.inforse.org/asia (expected to launch around mid-April, 2005).

AIWC Receives SESI Award 2004

Solar Energy Society of India (SESI) honored the All India Women's Conference (AIWC) with SESI's national award for the year 2004. Ms. Lalita Balakrishnan received the award on behalf of AIWC during the International Conference on Renewable Energy held in Pune, India, in January, 2005.

Solar Dryer Project in Nepal and India 2005

The Centre for Rural Technology (CRT) Nepal, in partnership with AIWC India, is carrying out a 9-month project in 2005 to help rural women to use solar dryers in selected villages in Nepal and India.

The project is supported by the Energy Small Grants Program Phase III of the South Asia Energy Initiatives (SARI), Enhancing Energy Security, and Rural Entrepreneurship through Energy Interventions. The project helps to increase access



Picture from the project preparation meeting in India: Fr. Mathew, SDA, Kerala, India; R.M. Amarasekara, IDEA, Sri Lanka; Raymond Myles, INSEDA, India; Paul Erik Bidinger, DIB, Denmark; Manushree Banerjee (front) A IWC, India; Gunnar Boye Olesen, OVE, Denmark & INFORSE Ganesh R. Shrestha, CRT, Nepal; Ruhul Quddus, Grameen Shakti, Bangladesh

of rural women to efficient energy devices, especially solar dryers, and to help them establish successful rural enterprises to improve their standard of living.

Centre for Rural Technology (CRT/N) Nepal, All India Women's Conference (AIWC), India - National Focal Points of INFORSE.

More information: Ganesh Ram Shrestha, Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal. www.crtnepal.org.

Grameen Shakti's Continued Success in Solar Systems

With the help of an innovative financing policy, Grameen Shakti (GS) is installing 1300 solar-home systems (SHS) per month in Bangladesh. The present installation is over 35,500 SHS with a capacity of 1.75 MWp. High initial cost of the technology has created the main barrier for promotion of SHS. GS's "soft" financing policy challenged this financial obstacle and proved successful. It allows:

- 15% down payment and 36 monthly installments with 12% service charge.
- 25% down payment and 24 monthly installments with 8% service charge.
- 15% down payment and 36 monthly installments through 36 postdated cheques with 10% service charge.
- 4% discount for cash purchase.
- 10% down payment and 36 monthly installments without any service charge with a condition of using it in market places after dusk.

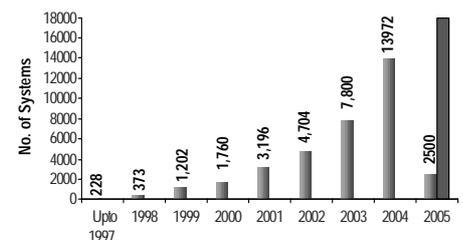
One key to this success is that GS not only promotes the system but also ensures maintenance service. Every SHS acts as a demonstration system for others. Many people are encouraged to incorporate a system after observing their neighbour's system.

Grameen Shakti solar-mobile-phone van shops. Photo by Grameen Shakti.



One new use of SHS is for mobile phone charging devices. At present, almost every corner of Bangladesh is covered by mobile phone signals, but many people cannot utilize this technology due to lack of mobile phone charging capabilities. GS has developed mobile phone charge sets. Every month about 500 mobile phone charging sets are sold with the SHS.

The mobile phone set is also used on solar-mobile-phone van shops, in which the entrepreneur moves through the village and offers the phone call service to villagers, at the same time also selling various types of grocery goods.



Graph: Number of SHS systems installed by Grameen Shakti since 1997. In 2005, the target is 18,000 systems, Up to February 2,500 systems were installed

Rebuild Afghanistan Now ! with Passive Solar Architecture



Edited by Guillermo Martin Cenizo, trainee at INFORSE-Europe office in Denmark, from material sent by GERES.

Passive solar architecture brings solutions to ease Afghanistan's suffering from its severe, cold winters.

GERES, an INFORSE member NGO settled in France, conducted a project in Afghanistan from 2003 to 2004, applying 20 years of valuable experience from its work in the Himalayas.

GERES and its technical partners, Afghan and international NGO's and GTZ (German Technical Cooperation) built 8 buildings in Afghanistan with passive solar architecture.

This technology is a way to design buildings rationally in order to take advantage of the outside environment through the absorption of the sun's energy. The aim is to attain a comfortable indoor climate with lower heating and cooling needs by implementing a favourable building orientation and room location as well as by insulating walls, floors and roofs.

Three public health buildings, two schools and several private houses were built with these efficient solutions. The impacts are:

- *63-78% reduction of energy needs for heating and cooking.*
The payback times vary from 4 to 15 years.
- *Reduction of CO₂ emissions.*
Each Afghan emits 1.0 ton of CO₂/year from unsustainable combustion of wood (UNEP).
- *Improved indoor comfort.*
Two schools that previously needed to close for up to 6 months because of the cold season now can hold activities and adult training classes during that time. The temperature in a passive-solar designed school never goes below 15C during the school opening hours, even in the coldest months.
- *Economic activities increase.*
In Beshud, the better indoor conditions such as heat and light made it possible to increase the rug-weaving production by 50%.



Insulation significantly cuts the heating needs of the 1091-m² district hospital (above) in Ali-Dehe-Baba, and in the 522-m² passive solar school (below) in Lagmani, there is no need of heating. Both buildings are 1600 m above sea level.



- *Less smoke in kitchens.*
The lower consumption of wood, dung and fuel, combined with use of efficient stoves, allows a decrease in production of harmful smokes and of CO poisoning, which is the cause of death of 1 million people every year in the Asian region (WHO).
- *Conservation of Afghan forest.*
In the 19th century, forest covered most of Afghanistan. Nowadays, due to fuel-wood collection and extensive keeping of livestock, it covers only 4% of the country. The decrease in wood consumption helps to conserve the remaining Afghan forest.

After these successful first steps, at the request of the French Foreign Ministry and GERES, the FFEM (French Global Environment Facility), in cooperation with Afghan authorities, a 3-year program starts in Afghanistan to introduce energy-efficient technologies in 100 buildings used for health and education. The operation is part of the "Afghan-French-German Energy Initiative".



Passive solar extensions provide opportunity to grow vegetables, to keep chickens, or as in this photo to weave rugs.

GERES -
Groupe Energies
Renouvelables,
Environnement
et Solidarite - is



a NGO that encourages the use of local resources with the objectives of respecting the environment and of providing well balanced development schemes.
GERES is member of INFORSE.

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For further information about the projects implemented by GERES in the Himalayas, see the SEN issue of October 2002 (Issue No. 38. page 16).

Photo by Vestas



New Record for Global Windpower - Leading Spain

2004 saw the installation of 8321 MW of new windpower worldwide, the largest increase in windturbine capacity ever. While the increase was just 200 MW above the figure for 2003, both these years have had far higher installation rates than previous years.

For the first time Spain was the country with the largest market, 2061 MW, closely followed by the usual leader Germany with its installation of 2020 MW. No other countries are close to these leaders; third comes India with an impressive installation of 875 MW, followed by Japan (390 MW) and USA (370 MW). Next in rank are a number of Western European countries with installations between 100 and 250 MW: UK, Portugal, Norway, Ireland, Austria, Netherlands, France, and Greece. In this category are also China, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

On the other end of the scale is Denmark that used to be the leader in windpower, but where installations have fallen to just 7 MW, below those of Ukraine (12 MW) and of Luxembourg (13 MW). This is a direct result of the government's cut of the feed-in tariff that was the basis for the development. A new political compromise might restart some development in 2005.

For EU the growth was 5862 MW, and even though this is lower than in some previous years, the EU is well on track to reach the target of 70,000 MW by the end of 2010.

Source: World Wind Energy Association, www.wwindea.org

A New Renewable-Energy Country - Canada

Ken Ogilvie, Pollution Probe, Canada

With some of the largest windpower resources in the world, and a large power consumption, Canada seems to be an obvious country for windpower.

Until recently the development was limited because of lack of political support, abundant hydropower, and a focus on nuclear energy. With the 2001 federal budget, this changed, as reflected by the Wind Power Production Incentive of \$260 million (EUR 160 mill.), a per-kilowatt incentive paid to stimulate installation of 1000 MW of windpower. By the end of 2004, 450 MW was installed, and the development continues. In September 2004 the government proposed to continue the incentive to a total of 4000 MW of windpower. In addition to the environmental benefits, this initiative will support rural economic development, build a new economic sector, and position Canada to be a leader in a vibrant wind energy industry in North America and internationally. The incentive payment of 1 cent per kilowatt-hour for the first 10

years of operation is combined with preferential tax treatment and enhanced capital cost allowance for Renewable Energy Generation.

As part of the Government's commitment to renewable energy production, it has announced a Renewable Power Production Incentive for the installation of up to 1,500 MW of new renewable electricity generation other than wind, starting March 31, 2006. In addition it provides an accelerated capital cost allowance rate of 30-50% per year for investments in efficient cogeneration and renewable energy equipment for industrial processes and for electricity production.

From Fossil to Renewable

The Government of Canada is selling its shares in Petro-Canada and will use \$1 billion (EUR 600 mill.) of the proceeds from this to support environmental technologies in the period 2005 - 2011. This will include the above-mentioned renewable-energy production incentives, development of clean water and soil technologies, a Sustainable Energy Science and Technology Strategy, and a "Clean Fund".

More info: kogilvie@pollutionprobe.org
www.pollutionprobe.org



New Energy Efficiency Strategy, Nevada

Saving Money and Reducing Pollution through Energy Conservation

By Howard Geller SWEEP, USA.



In January the governor of Nevada, Kenny Guinn, announced that he will be proposing new policies for increasing energy efficiency in the near future, following the release of the "Nevada Energy Efficiency Strategy". The strategy considers 14 energy policy options for reducing consumption of electricity and of natural gas through greater energy efficiency. The options range from expanding utility energy efficiency programs, to upgrading building construction energy codes, to adopting energy pricing structures that will encourage reduced electricity demand when demand is greatest.

The new policies could save consumers and businesses in Nevada nearly \$5 billion (EUR 3.7 bill.) over the next 15 years according to the strategy released by the Southwest Energy Efficiency

Project (SWEEP), the Nevada State Office of Energy (NSOE), and the Nevada Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Task Force. This is partly because the policies will reduce the need for costly investments in new power plants and transmission lines – even with Las Vegas' rapid population growth.

7 of the 14 proposed policies could reduce electricity use by 22% and natural gas use by 19% by 2020. In addition, they could expand and diversify employment in the state and save over 5 billion gallons (20 mill. m³) of water per year by 2020. Now the next step is up to the policymakers in Nevada.

Read more at the SWEEP website at www.swenergy.org/pubs/Nevada_Energy_Efficiency_Strategy.pdf.

Events

April 13-15, 2005

EE & RES Congress, Plovdiv, Bulgaria
International Congress on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources Industry, Construction
Info: office@viaexpo.com
http://www.viaexpo.com/congressen.html

April 22, 2005

Earth Day, Special Earth Day Poster Contest 2005
Info: http://www.earthday.net/

April 26-28, 2005

Distribution Europe, Berlin, Germany
New Solutions for European Energy Grids
Info: Synergy, www.synergy-events.com

April 28, 2005

Wind Power - Small Scale & Building Integrated, Watford, U.K.
Info: BRE, NEF, www.bre.co.uk/events

May 9-11, 2005

Right Light 6: Shanghai, China
Info: nils@borgco.se, www.rightlight6.org

May 24-25, 2005

Ecobuild 2005, Designing and Building a Sustainable Future. London
Visit NEF, PV-UK. jayne@cityscapeonline.com, www.ecobuild.co.uk

May 18-20, 2005

Environmental Education Renewable Energies for Children and Youth, Berlin, Germany
Info: German Ministry of Environment, e-mail: meike.rathgeber@ufu.de, www.ufu.de

May 22-27, 2005

World Renewable Energy Congress WREC 2005 "Innovation in Europe", Aberdeen Scotland
Info: WREC2005aberdeen@aecc.co.uk
www.wrec2005aberdeen.co.uk

May 24-25, 2005

13th Int. Conf. of the Climate Alliance, Luxembourg
Info: Climate Alliance of European Cities, europe@climatealliance.org, www.climatealliance.org

May 25, 2005

Aarhus Convention COP 2 Almaty, Kazakhstan
Info: www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/aarhus/index.htm
Article on page no. 7

May 31- June 3, 2005

European Commission's Green Week Conference
Theme: "Getting to Grips with Climate Change".
Info: env-greenweek@cec.eu.int
http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/greenweek/

June 6-7, 2005

32nd Annual Euroheat & Power Congress, Berlin
Info: info@euroheat.org, www.euroheat.org

June 15, 2005

INFORSE-Europe - EREF - EUFORES EU Energy Policy Seminar, Brussels, Belgium
Info: E-mail: ove@inforse.org
http://www.inforse.org/europe
INFORSE-Europe Event. Article on page no. 4

June 16-17, 2005

Climate Change Conference; "Emerging Carbon Markets, Can they Deliver?", London
info: The Int'l Emissions Trading Association
E-mail: dribeiro@chathamhouse.org.uk
www.chathamhouse.org.uk/ClimateChange2005

June 21-22, 2005

The Second European Solar Thermal Energy Conference, Freiburg, Germany
Info: ESTIF, estec2005@bsi-solar.de
www.estec2005.org

June 27 - July 1, 2005

Annual Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Geneva, Switzerland
Info: UNECE, catherine.pierre@unece.org
www.unece.org/ie

July 13-15, 2005

Int'l Hydrogen, Istanbul, Turkey
Energy Congress & Exhibition
E-mail: info@ihcc2005.org
www.dekon.com.tr

August 16 - 21, 2005

INFORSE/AGREE.NET Seminar, Solta, Croatia
Info: Green Action Zagreb, daniel@zelena-akcija.hr
http://www.inforse.org/europe
INFORSE-Europe Event. Article on page no. 4

September 19-23, 2005

7th Global Conf. on Env. Education, Agra, India
Info: Indian Environmental Society,
E-mail: iesenro@vsnl.com
http://www.iesglobal.org/Events/events.html

September 12-18, 2005

INFORSE-Europe Seminar, Romania
Info: Earth Friends Romania, INFORSE-Europe
E-mail: earthfriends@rdslink.ro, ove@inforse.org
http://www.inforse.org/europe
INFORSE-Europe Event. Article on page no. 4

September 22-24, 2005

6th Annual Global Conference on Environmental Taxation, Leuven, Flanders, Belgium
info: www.kuleuven.ac.be/english/

November 14-16, 2005

The First Central-Asian Conference on Renewable Energy, Karaganda, Kazakhstan
Info: ECOMuseum, REA, INFORSE-Europe
bc_conference@nursat.kz, ove@inforse.org
www.ecomuseum.freenet.kz
http://www.inforse.org/europe
INFORSE-Europe Event. Article page no. 4

November 28-December 9, 2005

Climate Convention COP 11, Montreal, Canada
http://unfccc.int/2860.php

Wind Plan Methods

By Jitske Burgers, & Marco Tieleman, CEA, the Netherlands

SIWERM Method Proves Opportunities for Wind Energy in West-Friesland, The Netherlands.

Based on the SIWERM method, which stands for Successful Implementation of Wind Energy on Regional and Municipal levels, 13 municipalities in West-Friesland have analysed together the opportunities to build wind mills in their region. The approach combines communication, stakeholder involvement, and objective guidance through the process. The results are recorded in the Windplan of West-Friesland. Accordingly, the wind-energy potential of 19 locations was assessed in terms of town and country planning as well as of environmental impact.

More information: www.siwerm.org
mtieleman@cea.nl, jburgers@cea.nl.



Twelve of the 19 locations were chosen. Estimates of technical potential have been scaled back from the 280 MW described in the 2001 RE-scan to a more realistic 66 MW.

The international knowledge gained in the SIWERM project has been applied when drafting the Windplan. Due to an active exchange of knowledge, Poland, Greece, Italy, and the Netherlands, are implementing wind energy plans now. This project is supported by the ALTENER program of the European Union.

Regional co-operation among the municipalities, which is an essential part of the SIWERM approach, leads to optimal placement of production facilities for wind energy. Costs and benefits are shared.

A decision by the city councils in West Friesland was made at the end of 2004. All municipalities, except one, agreed with the proposed plan. Now, the region started to guide the further process with an extended communication plan.

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