UNFCCC COP31 SIDE EVENT - Blue Zone
14/11 2026 13:15-14:45. Room 6, Katip Çelebi

100% Renewables with Focus on Local Solutions, End Poverty, Women/Gender Responsive, Youth Education



100 % Renewables, Efficiency, and Faster Transition with Sufficiency, Lifestyle Changes

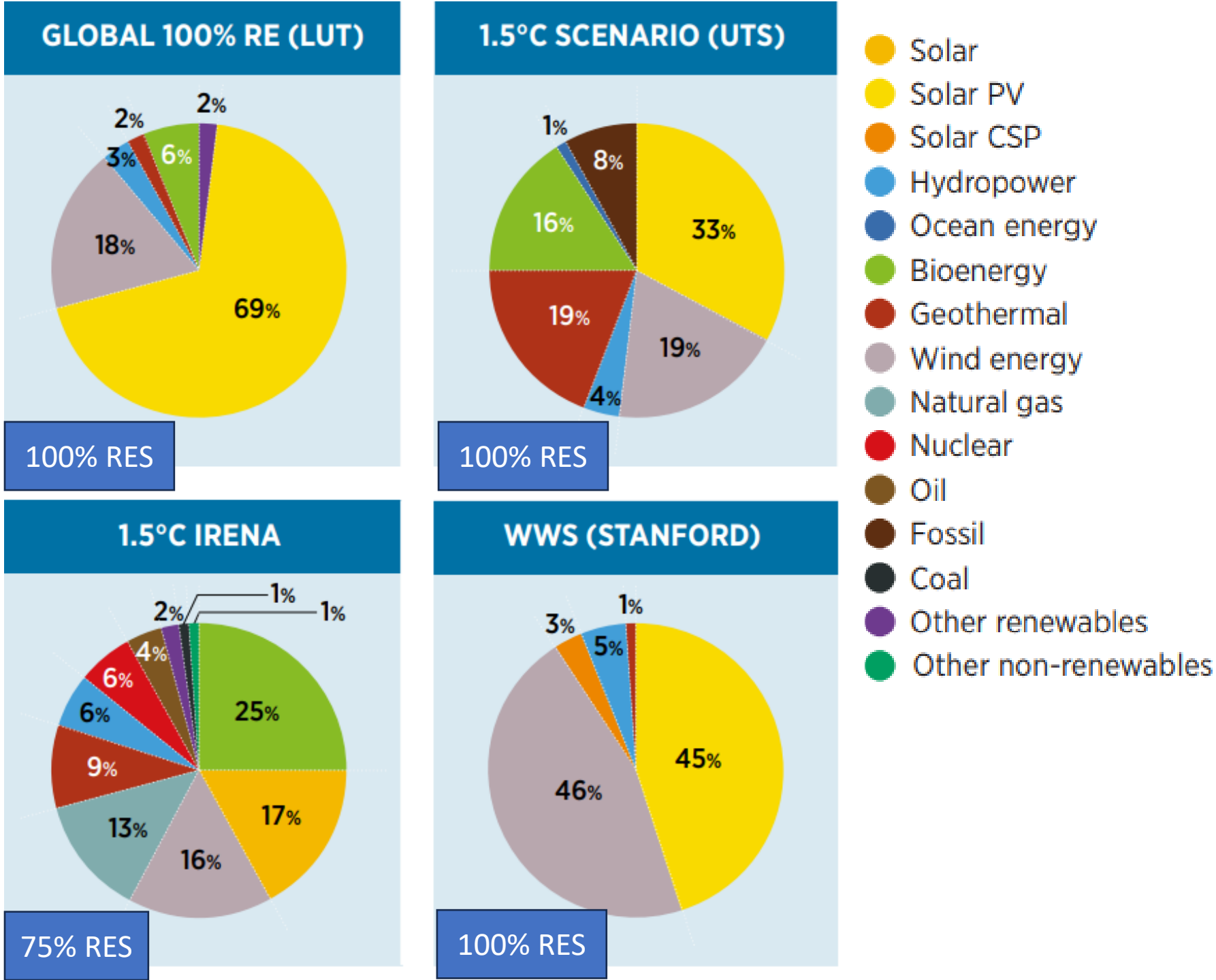
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Proceedings: inforse.org/cop31.php

Several 100% Renewable Futures Possible: 4 proposals for global energy mix 2050

No Nuclear of Fossils Needed in 2050

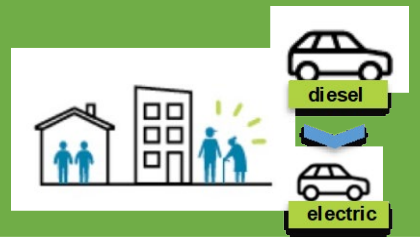


Add Sufficiency to RES & EE in high-consuming countries

- We are not reducing emissions fast enough to keep 1,5’C target of 2’C
- In high-consuming countries, problematic solutions are introduced with their own problems (nuclear, CCS, overuse of biomass, geoengineering and others).
- Many analysts are concluding that we simply need to reduce consumption, but such a statement is hard to implement on societal scale, people are, after all, consuming for a reason or a structure
- One option is to implement policies that lead high-consuming populations to consume less of the consumption with high climate and environmental impacts.
- We call that **sufficiency policies**

Sufficiency policies implement sufficienccy measures (i.e. what people do)

Sufficiency Measures, examples

Consumption Type	Service, duration	Size	Sharing
			
Dwellings	Long building life, less heating/ cooling, less light	Smaller buildings, easier move of families & of functions	Share common rooms & facilities
Transport	Shorter travel to work, to shops etc.	Smaller vehicles, use bi-cycles	Public transport, sharing cars & trips
Products	Longer product & cloth life, repair	Sizes adapted to needs (fridges etc.)	Sharing economy, 2nd hand cloth etc.
Food	Plant based food, organic	Reduce food waste	
Holidays	Avoid flights, cruise ships	Shorter distances	Exchange homes in holidays

Sufficiency Policies to Implement Measures

Consumption Type	Measures	Policies
Dwellings	Long lifetime of buildings less heating/cooling & light	Support renovation, finance Clothing habits, stop H&C not used
Transport	Shorter travel to work, shops etc.	Urban planning, taxes & subsidies, ban malls outside cities
Products	Longer prod. & cloth life, repairability	Product regulation, clothing habits Regulation: repairability, against planned obsolecence
Food	Plant based food, Organic	Public kithchens, information, taxes Support organic agriculture, info.
Holidays	Avoid flights, Avoid cruise ships	Develop good alternatives, taxes Market good alternatives, taxes

Sufficiency Contributes to a Just Transition (but is not JT)

- Som policies for smaller buildings can make them cheaper (e.g. tiny house policies)
- Societies that require less travel and support bicycling can be more equal
- Reusing and repais products can reduce costs of use
- Plant based food can be the cheapest
- Holiday options with less travel can be cheaper





Will Sufficiency Give Economic Growth or Degrowth?



- It reduces high polluting consumption
- It replaces high-polluting consumption with low-consuming consumption
- Some parts of sufficiency will support growth, other degrowth
- It will change consumption, some sectors will grow others will not grow (concretse versus building renovation, airlines versus trains, cruise ships versus hotels etc.)
- A main critique is that it will harm economic growth, but that is questionnable and is mainly told by sectors that will reduce activity with sufficiency policies (as airlines)

Policy Recommendations

- Set sufficiency as a general climate policy direction
- Map possible sufficiency policies, their climate effect, economic effects, equity effects, public acceptance.
- Make a sufficiency plan as part of the climate plans
- Integrate sufficiency policies in sector policies



Many Sufficiency Policies Can Help Development

- Reduce travel needs with closer functions will make them more accessible for all
- Longer lifetime, repairability and more second-hand use will make them more accessible for all
- Some developing countries have high-consuming sectors and areas
- Som developing countries are already considering initiatives for more sustainable lifestyles as India’s



Read more:

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SustainableEnergy/ INFORSE

https://inforse.org/europe/Sufficiency_as_Climate_Action_Project.htm

https://inforse.org/europe/Vision2050.htm

https://www.inforse.org/europe/Energy-Sufficiency-Project.htm

Proceedings: inforse.org/cop31.php