

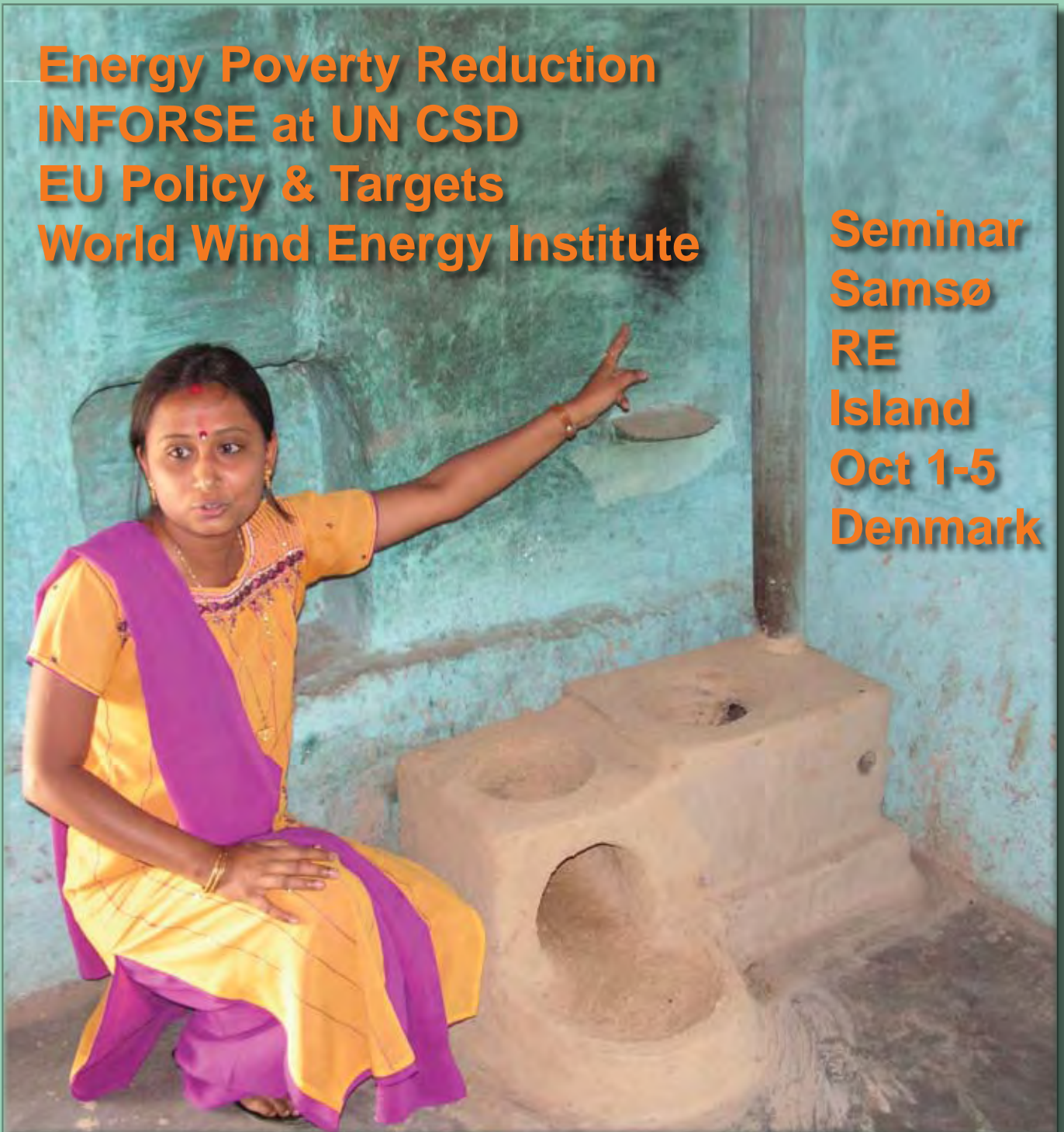
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS

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

No. 56, April 2007

**Energy Poverty Reduction
INFORSE at UN CSD
EU Policy & Targets
World Wind Energy Institute**

**Seminar
Samsø
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Photo on the front page:

Improved cook stove with chimney. It increases efficiency and removes smoke from the kitchen. From an eco-village development program in 12 villages in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan in India, see: www.inforse.org/asia. Photo by INFORSE.

Sustainable Energy for Poverty Reduction



When we in the INFORSE network advocate sustainable energy, i.e., renewable energy produced in sustainable ways and used efficiently, we do this for more than the environmental benefits. We advocate sustainable energy solutions for poverty reduction because experience has shown again and again that the solutions based on locally available resources can bring about lasting improvements for the poor, providing clean cooking and improved light. Sometimes the sustainable solutions are more costly to invest in than fossil fuel solutions, but usually they provide more affordable solutions in a longer perspective.

If we want to cut by half or more the number of people without energy for clean cooking, for basic light, and for small-scale productions, we need to focus on local resources. We need to focus on solutions that do not make the poor dependent on imported fossil fuels that they are forced to skip at the next price jump. This already happened in 2006, when many poor people in Sri Lanka who had turned from traditional biomass to LPG returned to traditional use of biomass. People who, alternatively, had turned to improved cook stoves plus chimneys or chimney hoods to provide clean cooking, still have clean air in their houses, while using wood or straw for cooking. In addition, those with biogas plants or with solar cookers where there is enough sunshine are able to maintain their clean cooking solutions without worrying about the rising international energy prices. Of course, the sustainable solutions are not without problems. They must all be built by skilled people, biogas plants must be operated

correctly, chimneys must be cleaned, etc.; but these skills can be available locally. People can be in control of them.

We also need to focus on solutions that have a minimum of reliability. While grid-based electricity is a reliable source of energy in most industrialised countries, many Indian electrified villages receive electricity only a few hours per day, not at the same time every day, and not even every day. Living from irrigated farming with an electrically driven pump is a risky business in such a situation. The chances that the electric light will be on when needed are well below 50%. If the irrigation on small land holdings (1/4 to 1 acre) is done with a treadle pump (known as Krishak Bandhu in India, meaning friend of the farmers) with a water table up to 8 m depth, or from deep wells with a motor-driven pump running on Jatropha oil or biogas, the users can decide when to irrigate, securing their crops and use water with the highest efficiency. Light from PV solar home systems or from biogas lamps will be available when most needed, such as in the evenings.

If we want to reduce global poverty, we also need to increase access to energy, and we need to set a target for it. This target could be to cut by half the number of people without clean cooking and without basic light by 2015. It is achievable with concerted action of Northern and Southern countries, NGOs and other stakeholders. The solutions must include local organisations, capacity-building, and micro-financing, and the focus must be on sustainable energy solutions.

Gunnar Boye Olesen and Raymond Myles
Coordinators of INFORSE from respectively Europe and South Asia

CSD15: Challenge for Sustainable Energy

By Gunnar Boye Olesen,
INFORSE Secretariat



Side event organised by INFORSE at the IPM meeting to CSD at the UN in New York.
From the left: Gunnar Boye Olesen, and Raymond Myles from INFORSE.

Opinions differ widely in the run-up to the UN Commission for Sustainable Development's 15th session (CSD15), April 30 - May 11, 2007, which shall conclude the CSD's two-year cycle on energy, air pollution, climate change and industrial development. The Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM) for CSD (February 26 - March 2, 2007) ended with a proposal from the Chair of the meeting for conclusions from the CSD energy cycle. This proposal, the "IPM Chairman's Draft Negotiating Text", not only fails to capture major parts of sustainable development in energy, it also includes many proposals to support increased use of fossil fuels.

The success of CSD's energy cycle will depend on the ability of CSD15 to correct this problematic position. CSD15 must embrace conclusions that set a strong framework for sustainable-energy development and that give new global cooperation to achieve such development.

Read more about side events and proposals for CSD at www.inforse.org.

Side-Events at IPM & CSD February 26 & April 30, 2007

On February 26, 2007, at the IPM for CSD, INFORSE organised a well-attended side-event, "Sustainable Energy: Future Prospects for Development in North and South, including Poverty Reduction".

The event was a good opportunity to present and discuss INFORSE's Vision2050 for a global transition to sustainable energy by 2050 as well as the many successes with sustainable energy to provide energy access for poverty reduction identified by INFORSE-South Asia.

On April 30, 2007, during CSD15, INFORSE will organise another side-event. "Sustainable Energy for South and North, NGO experiences and visions" The event will highlight the work of Grameen Shakti, the sister organisation to the Nobel-Prize-winning Grameen Bank, and other INFORSE members like CRT Nepal, INSEDA India, and OVE Denmark.

Highlights of the proposals from INFORSE and other NGOs to make CSD15 a success: The countries should agree to:

- set a clear target for increased access to energy for poverty reduction as part of sustainable development: reducing by half by 2015 the number of people without basic energy services (proposed by WHO). This should include access to clean and affordable cooking solutions and access to light for essential uses.
- support time-bound targets for renewable energy and energy efficiency, nationally and globally.
- acknowledge that the best solutions to increase energy access are local resources used efficiently with modern methods and as part of sustainable systems. This must be based on renewable energy sources used in sustainable ways.
- not refer to LPG (bottled gas) as a solution to energy access for poor people. As a purported solution, LPG is neither affordable nor sustainable.
- acknowledge that access to energy for poverty reduction must be a shared responsibility in which the North takes an active part.
- acknowledge that international support must be limited to sustainable energy. There should not be international support for fossil fuels, including "clean fossil fuels" & Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), nor for nuclear power.
- stress that renewable energy must be used sustainably. Hydropower must follow recommendations of the World Commission of Dams. Biomass must be produced and used in sustainable ways, with preservation of biodiversity, a positive life-cycle contribution to climate mitigation, and must not have negative effects for people living around the production. Biomass productions including biofuel productions that do not follow these guidelines should be stopped.
- support increased use of locally managed and locally controlled production of biofuels, integrated with poverty-reduction strategies and activities, primarily for local consumption.
- recognize that development of energy infrastructures should only have priority and receive support if it contributes to sustainable development. Infrastructure is not an end in itself, but only a means to achieve sustainable development.
- recognize that the development of energy markets also is not an end in itself, but simply a means to sustainable development, and that some energy markets detract seriously from sustainable development.
- support strengthening of institutional capacity nationally and internationally on issues of access to energy for poverty reduction, energy efficiency, and development of renewable energy (see proposals for new institutions below).
- CSD should support the establishment of a World Program for Renewable Energy as proposed by the UN Secretary General and contribute environmentally and socially responsible guidance on its establishment. The program must reach out far beyond the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 and become a truly international effort to build capacity.
- support the development of an international agreement for energy efficiency.
- push forward the implementation of the agreed phase-out of environmentally harmful subsidies. The effort should include support for international capacity to assist countries with the phase-out, integration of the phase-out with sustainable development plans, and a target year. Since the phase-out was agreed at the Johannesburg Summit for Sustainable Development in 2002, albeit without agreement for a target year, the target year for phase-out can be relatively soon, e.g., 2010.
- propose a comprehensive strategy on international finance, redirecting the funding of the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to sustainable energy solutions including strengthened micro-financing for renewables and energy efficiency. The financial mechanisms must include for each project an open and sincere dialogue with local communities and public consultations as well as a comprehensive environmental impact assessment (EIA).
- agree to review progress in the implementation of CSD-15 decisions and of previously agreed international commitments on sustainable development in energy during CSD sessions in 2010/2011 and in 2014/2015.

Updated Scientific Basis for Climate Strategies

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has improved the scientific basis for climate strategies and policies with its new 4th assessment reports. The first, "Summary for Policymakers", was released in February, the second in March, and the third is coming in May this year.

The summary from the first IPCC working group on scientific understanding of climate change states:

- CO₂ emissions from fossil-fuel use increased from an average of 6.4 Gigaton of carbon per year in the 1990's to an average of 7.2 Gton/year 2000-2005.
- CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere are growing faster than before (1.9 ppm/year 1995-2005 compared with 1.4 ppm/year 1960-2005).
- Eleven of the last 12 years were among the 12 warmest on record and the linear warming for the past 50 years is 0.13 °C per decade. In the arctic, temperature increases are twice the global average.
- The sea is rising faster than before, averaging 3 mm/year for 1993-2003, compared with an annual average of 1.7 mm for the entire 20th century.
- The sea is becoming more acidic, on average by 0.1 pH-units since 1750 because of CO₂, and the acidification is accelerating.
- IPCC's estimates of climate sensitivity (the global warming from a doubling of greenhouse-gas content in the atmosphere) center around 3°C, but carry large uncertainties, a likely range being 2 - 4.5 °C.
- Future warming is considered likely to be 0.2°C/decade for the coming two decades.
- warming from pre-industrial level to the last decade of the 21'st century (2090-2099) is likely to be between 1.7 °C and 7°C in average This is the results for the IPCC SRES emission scenarios that cover six different human development patterns; but without effective climate policies.
- Natural effects will add CO₂ to the atmosphere as the climate system warms, but the magnitude is uncertain. Model studies suggest that stabilisation of atmospheric CO₂ concentrations at 450 ppm could require that total emissions over the 21st century be reduced

from an average of approximately 670 Gigaton of Carbon (GtC) without these effects to approximately 490 GtC (about 56 years of current emissions). This might not keep average global warming below 2°C.

Highlights of the summary from the second IPCC working group (climate impacts) include:

- Evidence from all continents and most oceans shows that many natural systems are being affected now by regional climate change, particularly by temperature increases.
- While rainfall will increase with further climate change in high latitudes and in some wet tropical areas, drought-affected areas will likely increase in extent.
- With global average temperature increases above 1.5 - 2.5 °C, major changes in ecosystems are projected, with predominantly negative effects on biodiversity. 20%-30% of species assessed are likely to be at increased risk of extinction.
- Acidification of oceans is expected to have negative impacts on marine shell-forming organisms, and thereby on the ecosystems that depend on them.
- Once temperatures increase by more than 1-3°C, global potential for food production is projected to decrease. In many tropical regions, food production capacity will decrease with even lower rises in average temperatures.
- Many millions more people are expected to be flooded by 2080 due to sea-level rise.

Read more at <http://www.ipcc.ch>

Proposal for an International Agreement on Energy Efficiency

A number of proposals have been made for an international agreement on energy efficiency, including issues such as:

- standards for measurements of efficiency on energy-using products, for minimum efficiency, and for labeling;
- targets for increase of energy efficiency;
- financing of energy efficiency, including guidance for the World Bank and other International Financial Institutions;
- international cooperation on capacity-building; and
- international cooperation on training.

INFORSE developed such a proposal in 2006. Currently the EU Commission is working actively on putting together proposals that can gain the widest possible support. The EU leaders supported this idea at their summit on March 8, 2007.

Read more at: www.inforse.org/europe/eu_table_EE.htm (see "Initiatives").



Wind mill on Samsø, Denmark

New Windpower Record

2006 was another record year for windpower. A total of 14,900 MW of new capacity was installed during the year, 32% higher than in the previous record year, 2005. For the first time since the mid-80's, USA is the leading country, with 2454 MW installed, followed by Germany (2194 MW), India (1840 MW), Spain (1587 MW), and China (1145 MW). In spite of rapid growth of installations in USA and China, half of the world's new windpower is still installed in the EU countries.

The EU countries also have 2/3 of the 73,900 MW of windpower standing in the world by the end of 2006.

In Denmark, once a leading country for windpower, the capacity was only expanded by 8 MW.

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



European Sustainable Energy Seminar & Tour October 1-5, 2007, Samsø Island Denmark

At the New Energy Academy on the 100% renewable-energy island of Denmark.
Organised by INFORSE-Europe

This seminar will address:

- How to turn EU to sustainable energy, using and improving the new EU energy policies;
- NGO activities to raise awareness on sustainable-energy issues politically, educationally, and publicly;
- Visions for sustainable energy futures, nationally and in Europe; and
- Discussions of present and future NGO cooperation in Europe.

The seminar includes a one-day tour of the Samsøe renewable-energy island, showing how an island in practice is making the transition to a 100%-renewable energy supply.

See program and apply for participation at www.inforse.org/europe.

The Seminar is organised by INFORSE-Europe in cooperation with the Samsø Energy and Environment Office, which is member of INFORSE. INFORSE-Europe will held a General Meeting on Samsø.

Costs: 150 Eur per person including simple accommodation, food, and seminar costs.

The building of the new Energy Academy, wind mills, and the solar thermal collectors of the district heating system.



INFORSE-EUROPE
International Network for Sustainable Energy

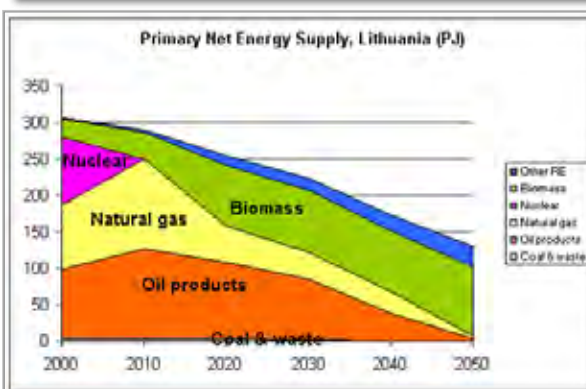
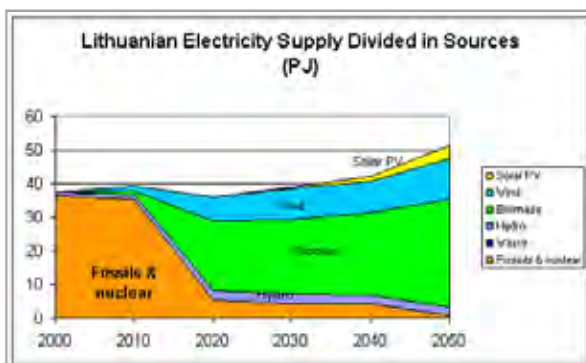
New Vision 2050: Lithuania, & Latvia

Following the *Lithuanian Sustainable Energy Vision 2050* developed in 2006, INFORSE-Europe is now working on a vision for how Latvia can combine economic growth (Latvia is the poorest country in EU) with a transition to locally produced sustainable energy.

The vision is being developed in cooperation with Latvian Green Movement and Green Liberty in Latvia.

This work will be followed by a vision for the St. Petersburg - Leningrad region later this year.

The first version of the Latvian vision is expected to be complete in June, 2007.



INFORSE-Europe EUFORES-EREF Policy Seminar March 20, 2007

With a prompt start by the EU Parliamentarians Claude Turmes (Green, Lux.) and Britta Thomsen (Soc., Denmark, the European Sustainable Energy Policy Seminar of 2007 gave insights and discussions on the new EU energy policies. 36 People met in Brussels for the seminar, which was organised by INFORSE-Europe, EREF, and EUFORES.

Most presentations from the seminar are now available online at http://www.inforse.org/europe/seminar07_BXL.htm.



Read about the visions as they become available at www.inforse.org/europe.



New EU Climate Targets & New EU Energy Policies

At their summit meeting on March 8, 2007, the EU prime ministers agreed upon an Energy Policy for the 27 EU countries. The policy includes a number of targets for EU:

- a binding target to increase renewable energy to 20% of the primary energy supply by 2020 for the countries combined,
- an indicative energy-efficiency target of 20% increase by 2020, and
- a binding target to increase use of biofuels in transport, in sustainable ways, to 10% by 2020.



- for off-shore windpower, an electric link from Germany and Poland to the Baltic countries (Baltic link), and a gas connection between Turkey and Austria (Nabucco pipeline); and
- continuing and strengthening ongoing energy- and climate policies such as the Action plan on Energy Efficiency and the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, which will be evaluated and might be expanded to include land-use emissions and transport.

The prime ministers also agreed on a 30% reduction of greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions from 1990 levels by 2020, on the condition that other countries also commit to reductions, and with a view to reducing GHG emissions by 60-80% by 2050. If an international agreement is not possible, they agreed that the EU countries must reduce GHG emissions by at least 20% for the period 1990 - 2020.

Further, the EU leaders agreed to:

- improve the functioning of internal energy markets with better separation of production and transmission companies;
- increase international cooperation to secure energy supplies and, with other energy-importing countries, to make progress on energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- the development of a new directive on renewable energy;
- strengthened cooperation on four high-priority Trans-European networks, including an off-grid electric network

An important background for the EU leaders' energy and climate decisions is the EU Commission's energy package, released January 10, 2007, which includes:

- a communication entitled, "An Energy Policy for Europe";
- a "Renewable Energy Roadmap";
- a progress report on renewable electricity;
- a progress report on use of biofuels for transport;
- a report on the implementation of the regulation of the internal electricity and gas markets;
- a priority interconnection plan for electricity and gas;
- a communication on carbon capture and storage;
- a Strategic Energy Technology Plan; and
- a nuclear-power illustrative program with potential future scenarios for nuclear power.



Read more: EC DG TREN
http://ec.europa.eu/energy/energy_policy/index_en.htm

Read and find links to the texts at
<http://www.inforse.org/europe/eupolicy.htm>.

INFORSE Comments on Targets

INFORSE-Europe welcomes the targets for climate and energy as well as the push that the new energy policy will give to renewable energy and energy efficiency.

We propose that the targets be strengthened and changed in the following ways:

- the climate target should be set to 30% unilaterally;
- the renewable-energy target should be increased from 20% to 25% by 2020, and should be split into separate targets for electricity, heating, and transport;
- the energy-efficiency target should be raised to a 25% increase in 2020 and should be mandatory; and
- the biofuels target should be replaced with a target for renewables in transport as part of sustainable transport strategies.

Behind INFORSE-Europe's proposal of an increased target for renewable electricity are proposals for higher growth in windpower and in solid biomass, including energy plantations to produce biomass on farm land in the EU-27. This, combined with higher energy efficiency and the start of a transition to a more sustainable transport structure, leads to our conclusion that the EU can achieve the target of deriving 25% of its primary energy from renewables by 2020.

INFORSE-Europe is not against the use of biofuels for transport, if the biofuels are produced and used sustainably and if their use has a considerable climate-mitigation effect. Neither targets nor strategies must require imports of biofuels as a pre-condition, however.

INFORSE Comments on Renewable-Energy Policies

In the “Renewable Energy Roadmap”, the EU Commission states that “harmonised support schemes (for renewable energy) should be the long term objective”.

INFORSE-Europe does not find that the support measures for renewable electricity should be harmonised unless the harmonisation is based on the most successful national support schemes, such as the feed-in tariffs in Germany and Spain.

In the “Roadmap” the EU Commission promises to “propose legislation to address the barriers to growth in the use of renewable energies in the heating and cooling sector.....”; but the previously promised directive on renewable heating and cooling is not included. INFORSE-Europe supports the introduction of legal measures to support renewable energy for renewable heating and cooling and finds that these must include:

- the removal of barriers, including legal barriers, to the use of renewable heating and cooling,
- a requirement that renewable heating and cooling be used in new and renovated buildings whenever cost-effective, and

- an obligation for district heating operators to buy renewable heat from CHP and solar.

Also in the “Roadmap” the EU Commission promises to “take further action to improve the functioning of the internal electricity market considering the development of renewable energies”. While this is important, equally important is the promotion of local involvement in renewable energy with local ownership and use. This must include the promotion of preferential tariffs for renewable-energy installations with primarily local ownership; loans or loan guarantees for installations with local ownership; and for the smallest installations (in households), the general application of net-metering.

The integration of renewable energy into grids is another important aspect recognised in the “Roadmap”; but more important than the proposed solution (grid integration) is the development of more flexible and intelligent electricity grids, as well as of flexible consumption such as heat pumps coupled to CHP plants. This must be reflected as well in EU policies.

Full exploitation of EU’s financial instruments for renewable energy, including structural funds, is also a measure proposed in the “Roadmap”.

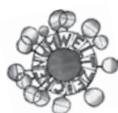
Unfortunately, INFORSE-Europe’s evaluation of structural funds of 2004-2006 shows that renewable energy only received a minimal share of EU’s structural funds in a number of new EU countries and that eligible renewable-energy projects were not funded because of under-allocation of structural funds to the sector.

These issues must be addressed, if the potential for structural funds for promotion of renewable energy is to be utilised effectively.

Read more about the new energy policy and INFORSE-Europe’s positions regarding it at:
http://www.inforse.org/europe/EU_policy2006.htm .



.eko



Ecodesign on its Way

INFORSE-Europe is following the implementation of the EU ecodesign directive, which might realise large potentials for end-use energy efficiency through standards and labelling. The new directive could be much more powerful than the SAVE directives in the 90’s that were the basis for labelling of fridges and some other appliances.

Now the nitty-gritty preparatory work for the implementation is in progress, with 25 expert teams, each in charge of one category of equipment or energy use. Currently INFORSE-Europe follows the work of the team on stand-by losses especially closely. We hope to be able to stay informed about further issues in cooperation with a number of other NGO networks.

Once the expert teams start to conclude their labors later this year, the Ecodesign implementation Forum, with INFORSE-Europe and many different stakeholders, will discuss proposals for standards and labelling for the EU market before the issue is considered by the countries. That can be a crucial time in which our interests in high energy efficiency meet producers’ interests in “business as usual” production.

Read more about the work of INFORSE-Europe at www.inforse.org/europe .

Further info about the progress of the expert group on stand-by is available at www.ecostandby.org .

INFORSE-South ASIA

Seminars & Manual to Sustainable Energy for Poverty Reduction



By Raymond Myles,
INFORSE South Asia
Coordinator, INSEDA,
India

Following the development of training manuals for sustainable energy solutions to reduce poverty, INFORSE - South Asia is now organising national seminars for NGOs that will use the solutions in their daily work on poverty reduction.

The manuals highlight a number of successful local energy solutions for cooking, for lighting, and for small-scale production. They cover technical solutions, guidelines to choosing the right solutions, and organisational solutions, as well as financing, including micro-financing, and cases. The manuals will be available in English and the manuals on technical and organisational solutions are being translated to Bangladeshi, Hindi, Nepalese, and Sinhalese.

The national seminars will be held in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka during April, May, and June, each involving 20 – 30 NGOs.

Read more at: www.inforse.org/asia.



The English version of the Manual on technical and organizational solutions is now online at:

www.inforse.org/asia/M_energy_solutions_poor.htm

INFORSE-AFRICA

Meeting on Renewable Energy and Poverty Reduction, March 2007



Information from Secou Sarr,
INFORSE Africa Coordinator,
ENDA, Senegal

The oil price shock has once again shaken the economies of developing countries, namely African countries, of which the majority is lacking oil resources. However, Africa is rich in renewable energy resources, which can contribute significantly to the energy security of the continent and can improve conditions for the most vulnerable groups.

This was the background for a meeting attended by 70 representatives from 13 African countries of State institutions, sub-regional organisations, private sectors, micro-finance institutions, NGOs and other organisations of the civil society, as well as local authorities, in Dakar, Senegal, 21-23 March 2007.

The meeting participants agreed that renewable energy resources should be used more extensively in Africa. To that end, they recommended the following to decision-makers and to CSD15:

- Upgrade the prospects of modern biomass with rational use of wood and development of bio-energy;
- Ensure the attendance of farmers and local representatives in negotiation of contracts with investors in energy plantations;
- Adopt appropriate national and regional strategies for the development of renewable energy, including bio-energy, with greater consideration of gender equity;
- Mainstream sustainable energy in development and poverty reduction strategies;
- Make every effort to overcome barriers to the development of sustainable energy micro- enterprises.

For development partners they recommended:

- Supporting the development of technologies, their transfer and adaptation, and building capacities in the field of renewable energy, to minimize costs;
- Encouraging local production and the widespread use of renewable energy, notably for developing income-generating activities;
- Enhancing opportunities for job creation and enterprise development for the benefit of women and youth;
- Supporting management of knowledge, skills and experience through development of networks.

The meeting was organised by ENDA (INFORSE-Africa Coordinator) together with Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development and with Senegalese authorities.



The recommendations above have been shortened by the editors.
Read the full text at
<http://energie.enda.sn/page4.html>.

The World Wind Energy Institute (WWEI) Starts 10-month Education in May 2007

A Global Tool for the Distribution of Knowledge, Experience and Technology. WWEI starts its first 10-month round-the-world program covering educational institutions in all continents.



By Sergio Oceransky,
WWEI Coordinator

The World Wind Energy Institute (WWEI) was created to cover the deficit in training and education that exists in many parts of the world regarding wind energy and other RE technologies. This uneven distribution of knowledge, experience and technology denies access to wind energy technologies to the poorest countries and sectors of the population. The WWEI aims to provide this knowledge to people willing and able to play a leading role in the introduction and to further development of wind energy in areas with just such information deficits, contributing to a just transition to a future energy supply based entirely on renewable sources. Other objectives include promoting various forms of technology transfer and improving the gender balance in the renewable-energy sector.

The WWEI wants to support the transition to renewable energy by providing information, experience and technology, which are, together with political will, the only limiting factors on the way to a sustainable and intelligent energy supply.

The WWEI was founded in May 2006 in Kingston, Canada, by:

- Asian Wind Energy Training Centre, Beijing, China;
- African Wind Energy Training Center, Mansoura University, Egypt;
- Centre for the Study of Renewable Energy Technologies (CETER), Technical University of Havana (CUJAE), Cuba;
- EOLICA, Brazilian Wind Energy Centre, University of Pernambuco, Brazil;
- Kola Science Center, Russian Academy of Sciences, Apatiti, Russia;
- Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy, Ydby, Denmark;
- St. Lawrence College, Kingston, Canada.

Successful Launch

The response to the WWEI has been extremely positive: since its public launch in December 2006, we have received applications from four continents, from highly qualified and motivated candidates with a wide range of personal, educational and professional backgrounds. Already at this early stage, the WWEI promises to produce extraordinarily capable, active and influential young leaders for the further development of renewable energy in general and wind energy in particular.

The first group of students will arrive in Denmark on May 15, 2007. From August onwards, they will divide into two groups that will cover different universities and training centers, for a 10-month intensive programme of lectures, practical training, discussions, contact-making and project-oriented work. A second group will start on August 15, 2007, and we are preparing for a third group of students to start in January 2008. Our aim is to have 3 programmes per year, of 10 months' duration each, and for the students in each programme to be able to choose between different groups covering a choice of contents in different centers.

In the first group, there will be students from Canada, India, Malawi, Nigeria, Pakistan and the UK. The applicants for future groups are even more international.

Low Costs; but Scholarships Needed

We are ready for a very positive start of the WWEI, with more universities and training centers waiting to join the initiative in the following years and a long list of applicants who want to become experts dedicated to the promotion of renewable energies in their countries. The only outstanding issue that we are now working to solve is the lack of financial means to support some applicants who cannot afford the participation fee. This is the case with most applicants from Africa and Asia. None of the WWEI-affiliated centers is making any profit from their participation in WWEI, since the fees only cover the real costs needed to run the programme.

We offer a professional 10-month round-the-world programme for an average of about 10.000 €, including travel, accommodation and food. This is an extremely low fee, but it is still impossible for very promising students from developing countries to pay it by themselves. Some of the founding institutions have donated the fees of several students of the first group, but cannot continue doing this in the future. We would therefore like to build a scholarship fund to contribute to the education of these promising future leaders of a new energy era. We appeal to institutions and foundations to support this fund, and will also welcome advice about possible donors.



The first 10-month round-the-world education starts in Denmark in May 2007.

Photos are from Egypt, Denmark, and Brazil.

Much more information about the WWEI, including the programme and application forms, is available on the website www.wwei.info.

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Confronting the Global Agro-Fuel Industry

Invitation to a Seminar and Strategy Session, 10-15 July 2007

By Sergio Oceransky, Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy, Denmark

The decisions recently taken at the EU and the US regarding biofuel targets in transportation is resulting in an unprecedented growth in this sector and a massive expansion of energy crops, mainly in Asia and Latin America. The on-going globalisation of the biofuel industry is often resulting in environmental destruction, and also provoking misery, displacement and exploitation amongst vulnerable sectors of the population, such as small farmers, indigenous peoples and agricultural workers.

This raises very serious questions for the renewable energy movement. The way most energy crops are produced is incompatible with the basic guarantees of sustainability proposed by INFORSE and other renewable energy advocates, and it will remain so unless there is a fundamental transformation in production and consumption patterns all over the world. If this transformation does not take place, biofuels can easily become part of the problem rather than part of the solution, and one with particularly destructive social effects. We have to act on this before it is too late.

The people most affected by the nascent global biofuel industry are getting organised to resist it. At the Forum for Food Sovereignty held by Via Campesina⁽¹⁾ in Mali in February 2007, 600 representatives of peasant movements and allied organisations committed to "mobilise and engage in international campaigns against the industrial production of agrofuels^{(2)(...).}⁽³⁾

Seminar at Folkecenter

The renewable energy movement, having devoted decades of work to develop and promote biofuels, cannot ignore these issues. We need to discuss our positions and strategies on these questions with the people negatively affected by this nascent global industry. To this purpose, a seminar

1) Via Campesina is an international movement which coordinates peasant organizations of small and medium sized producers, agricultural workers, rural women, and indigenous communities from Asia, America, and Europe. It is an autonomous, pluralistic movement, independent from all political, economic, or other denomination. See www.viacampesina.org

2) Peasant movements have introduced the term "agro-fuels" instead of "biofuels" because, in the words of the Brazilian Landless Peasant Movement, "The expression "bio" which relates this energy to life, in a generic form, is a clear manipulation of the concept. We have to introduce, in all languages, the concept of agro-fuels. That means, energy generated from vegetal products that originate from agricultural production." (Translated from <http://www.mst.org.br/mst/pagina.php?cd=3002>)

3) <http://www.nyeleni2007.org/spip.php?article334>

and strategy session will take place on July 10-15, 2007 at the Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy with the following proposed topics:

- Agro-fuels: local use vs. global industry
- Urban vs. Rural Cultures in a post-oil economy

Proposed objectives:

- Advancing in the construction of wide alliances against the globalisation of the agro-fuels industry, on the basis of previous strategy workshops held in Africa and Latin America
- Developing concrete action strategies which also involve organizations promoting renewable energies
- Placing the strategies against the globalization of agro-fuels within the wider framework of the intensification of conflict between resource-centralising urban cultures and self-sufficiency-based rural cultures in the post-oil economy
- Advancing in the development of local, integrated, just and self-sufficient energy, food and water systems as positive tools to face this conflict
- Analyzing the obstacles that make more difficult the construction of self-sufficiency, such as limited access to technologies and/or training, political, organizational and cultural aspects, need to widen alliances, etc., and developing action plans to overcome those obstacles.

The participants will come mainly from Europe, but we want to invite some representatives of social movements from Africa, Asia and Latin America (especially peasant movements).

The seminar will take place at the Folkecenter and will be a low-cost conference with simple accommodation. We cordially invite all organisations interested in this topic to send a representative. Organisations that are already working on issues related to agro-fuels are also invited to join the preparation committee.

Background Information

A special section of the Fokecenter website will collect preparatory background information for the seminar, of three different kinds:

- The positions of organisations dealing with the effects of the global agro-fuel industry, such as the declaration made by the most important Brazilian rural movements, together with Via Campesina, on the impact of the sugarcane industry in Latin America, or the statement of the European Peasant Coordination (CPE) on this topic.
- The ways in which the agro-fuel industry is interrelated to the political economy of the food system.
- Specific examples of the negative impacts of this industry, such as the death by exhaustion and suffocation of Brazilian workers in the sugarcane plantations, and the deforestation and drainage of peat land by Oil Palm planters in Indonesia.

We call on all organisations interested in this issue to contribute to this section, to make use of it, and to come to the seminar and strategy session in July 2007.



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Opinion of INFORSE:

While INFORSE is not against biofuel use in transport, we demand that it be produced and used in socially and environmentally sustainable ways, and that it be required to have a clear positive climate-mitigation impact. We support clear criteria for sustainable production of biofuels as a basis for its trade and use. We support targets for renewable energy in transport as part of sustainable transport strategies instead of targets for biofuels.

Read INFORSE-Europe opinions and proposed criteria at http://www.inforse.org/europe/eu_table_RE.htm.

Publications



Growing Eco-Communities - Practical Ways to Create Sustainability

A book full of practical examples and experience on building and maintaining eco-communities.

Written by Jan Martin Bang

Published by Floris Books,

Price: 20£, 238 pages, 2007.

Contact: www.florisbooks.co.uk.

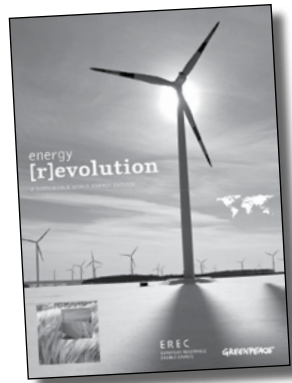
Read more about ecovillages:

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

<http://gen.ecovillage.org/>

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

<http://www.gaia.org/gaia/resources/articles/>



Energy [R]evolution - A Sustainable World Energy Outlook

This independent report provides a practical blueprint for how to halve global CO₂ emissions, while allowing for an increase in energy consumption by 2050 and phase out of nuclear power. It is based on continued economic growth that, if combined with strong energy efficiency, will lead to a small increase in global energy demand by 2050. By comparison, the World Energy Outlook from International Energy Agency foresees large increases in future global energy demand, while INFORSE's Vision 2050 aims for reductions.

95 pages, January 2007,

Published by Greenpeace and the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC)

It can be downloaded together with background reports from:

<http://www.energyblueprint.info/>.



DVD:

When the Time Comes and Looking for Solutions

DVD with two films (25 min. and 22 min.) on decommissioning of nuclear power plants in Sweden, Germany, and Lithuania with focus on the effects for communities. How the possible employment crisis for the local community can be turned into a creative process of opening up new perspectives.

The films were made with financial support from the Norwegian Society for Conservation of Nature in the framework of a project with NGOs of North West Russia and Norway, 2006.

By Green World, Russia and Information Agency Sustainable Development (IASD), Russia.

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<http://www.decomatom.org.ru>

<http://www.ecomedia.org.ru>

Events

April 30 – May 11, 2007

Commission for Sustainable Development, 15th Session

Policy session on energy, industrial development, air pollution, and climate
UN Headquarters, New York, USA

W: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/policy.htm>

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April 30, 18.15, 2007

Sustainable Energy for South and North, NGO experiences and visions including successes of Grameen Shakti Side-event to CSD15 organised by INFORSE and members.

UN Headquarters, New York, USA

W: <http://www.inforse.org>,
www.inforse.org/europe/UN_CSD.htm

E: ove@inforse.org

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June 5-7, 2007

European Conference on Community ownership of Renewable Energy Plants - Concepts and Conditions of Community Ownership in Europe

Organised by University of Flensburg and many others.

Contact: European Academy Sankelmark, Flensburg, Germany

E: Cornelia.Pankratz@ib-sh.de

July 10-15, 2007

Seminar and Strategy Session for NGOs on Agro-fuels, Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy, Denmark

Contact: Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy, Kammersgårdsvej 16, Sdr. Ydby, 7760 Hurup Thy, Denmark.

T: +45- 9795 6600.

W: <http://www.folkecenter.net/gb>

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September 2-8, 2007

South-East European Sustainable Energy NGO Seminar, Solta Island, Croatia

T: +385 14813096, www.zelena-akcija.hr

E: za@zelena-akcija.hr

October 1-5, 2007

European Sustainable Energy Seminar, Energy Academy, Samsø, Denmark

Organised by INFORSE-Europe

W: www.inforse.org/europe

E: ove@inforse.org

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October 10-12, 2007

Pan-European Environment Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", Belgrade, Serbia

W: <http://www.unece.org/env/efe/wgso/Belgrade/>, <http://www.eco-forum.org/>

December 8, 2007-04-23

Global Day of Climate Action

W: www.globalclimatecampaign.org

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- New Windpower Record

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- INFORSE-Europe-EUFORES-EREF Policy Seminar March 20, 2007

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 - INFORSE Comments on Renewable-Energy Policies
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Fax: _____

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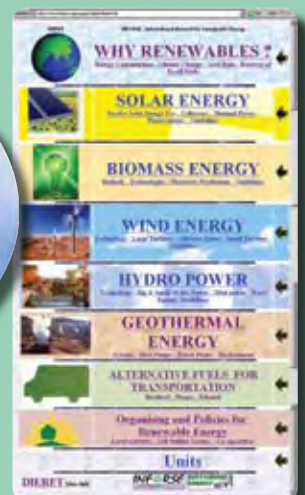
http:// _____

Type of organisation: __ NGO __ Government
__ Business __ Education __ Research

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