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SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS

SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE - SUFFICIENCY
BETTER GREEN DEAL
NEWS FROM: EUROPE, SOUTH ASIA, EAST AFRICA, AMERICAS, UNFCCC

CONTENTS

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◀ UNFCCC COP 28 Side Event panel representing Global Ecovillage Network, INFORSE South Asia by CRT Nepal, INFORSE East Africa by Suswatch Kenya, and INFORSE-Europe by NFRE.

New Policies and Actions for Climate Urgency

While we have seen record heat waves, floods and droughts, we are also seeing an increasing number of effective climate policies.

Although the emissions in 2023 were record high, the global increase in CO_2 emissions is slowing down. This slow-down is a positive sign, yet, we are very far from halving global emissions by 2030 as needed for the global warming to stay at 1.5'C on average.

So, the message is simple: if we want to maintain a stable climate, we need to cut emissions rapidly and globally.

Unfortunately, **climate policy is not simple,** as we see in the debates over ambitious climate policy proposals that are not adopted due to opposition. Sometimes this is driven by **populist politicians** and with **fake arguments**. Sometimes this is because the climate policies are **poorly planned** and will place **extra burdens on poorer** parts of the population. Sometimes because of a combination.

Therefore, **climate policies must focus on driving the necessary change** needed and ensuring that the polluters pay, while also avoiding burdens on the poor and increasing inequality.

This is in principle not difficult. With the **richest being responsible** for the vast majority of emissions, both inside each country and between countries, and with renewable energy and energy conservation being **cheaper** than the continued use of fossil fuels, climate policies **can reduce** high emitting activities and also compensate the poor that are affected by the policies.

A number of practical policies are successfully supporting the transition. These includes policies that **engage citizens with energy cooperatives** and local energy communities, as we see in many parts of the world, and now also in Latin American countries. There distributed energy, in particular solar energy, is progressing supported by legislation and subnational support, e.g. from provinces.

In this issue, we focus on **better climate and energy policies** that can help strengthen climate plans, including the National Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement, which are due in 2025.

We include results from the **FULFILL project,** which analysed **sufficiency policies** that lead to more sustainable lifestyles. We have **compared the climate policies in 7 European countries**, and identified the **best practices**, giving inspirations for increased climate efforts.

Additionally, we cover i**nspiring activities from 15 INFORSE members** from across **four continents.**

We hope that this will inspire to increased climate action at a time when it is urgently needed.

We also invite cooperation to enhance climate action, cooperation for better policies and better NDCs, and also cooperation for practical implementation.

Gunnar Boye Olesen, on behalf of International Network for Sustainable Energy - INFORSE

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Photo on the front page: FULFILL Project at EUSEW 2024, with illustrations of sufficiency and icons from the civil society movement.

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The Global Climate Action We Need

Almost a year ago, the COP28 UN climate summit offered **hope** with agreements **to double energy efficiency and tripling renewable energy by 2030**. It also confirmed work programs for a just transition and mitigation, and showed a general understanding for increased international climate financing. Unfortunately, the follow-up negotiations in Bonn in June this year saw little progress, and as we approach COP29 this November, it remains uncertain whether the countries of the world can work together to cope with climate change. Otherwise, we will continue on a climate disaster path leading to 3'C global warming.

The countries that are concerned with climate change **must lead by backing their ambitious climate targets with NDCs,** leading to strong reductions by 2030 and 2035, and planning for climate neutrality by 2040, at the least for developed countries. To achieve this, countries must **go beyond existing climate policies** and include policies for *"transitioning to sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production"* (COP28, Outcome of the first Global Stocktake, par. 36). They **must also engage citizens** in the transition with energy communities and in other ways.

Additionally, they need to **move away from questionable solutions**, including *nuclear power* that will not solve the climate crisis, *unsustainable biomass use*, dangerous *geo-engineering*, and *carbon capture and storage.*

High on the COP29 agenda is the new international climate finance target (New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance, NCQG). With the present climate finance **goal of 100 bill. $/year** from 2020 **not being met** and with the increased demands for funding, **new funding solutions** are needed to avoid negotiations ending in chaos or resulting in empty promises that will not lead to increased financing. The best chances are to **combine existing financing sources, which should be increased, with innovative financing mechanisms**, such as from levies on international aviation and shipping, and other revenues, for instance from the EU Climate Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

Climate Action must also focus on **climate adaptation,** compensation of loss and damage, and solutions that support development for the poor. This includes addressing the needs of the **billion people that still cook with inefficient and polluting fires, often contributing to deforestation** - a still significant contributor **to climate change**.

▲ INFORSE's colourful exhibition stall at COP28 in Dubai in November 2023. The stall was organised with AIWC, INSEDA, Suswatch Kenya and SustainableEnergy. We had many visitors including members as CRT/N, Mali Folkecenter, Ecoaction, and CCDB.

JOIN US !
INFORSE's PARTICIPATION
UNFCCC COP29
Baku, Azerbaijan
November 11-22, 2024

INFORSE, AIWC, INSEDA, SUSWATCH Kenya, SE Nordic Folkecenter.

Read more at
www.inforse.org/cop29.php

Don't Nuke the Climate!

INFORSE, together with many other civil-society networks and organisations, is **deeply concerned about the false promises** of the nuclear industry and the countries supporting it. **Nuclear energy is slow, very expensive, unsafe, and inherently dangerous.**

It obviously poses a **risk of causing radioactive catastrophes due to operational failures, leakage of nuclear waste, terrorism, and war.** In case of **accidents, the costs are enormous,** (including evacuation, rehousing of people, health care, and death). There is **no insurance company** that will insure it. Additionally, the technology can be used to produce **nuclear weapons.**

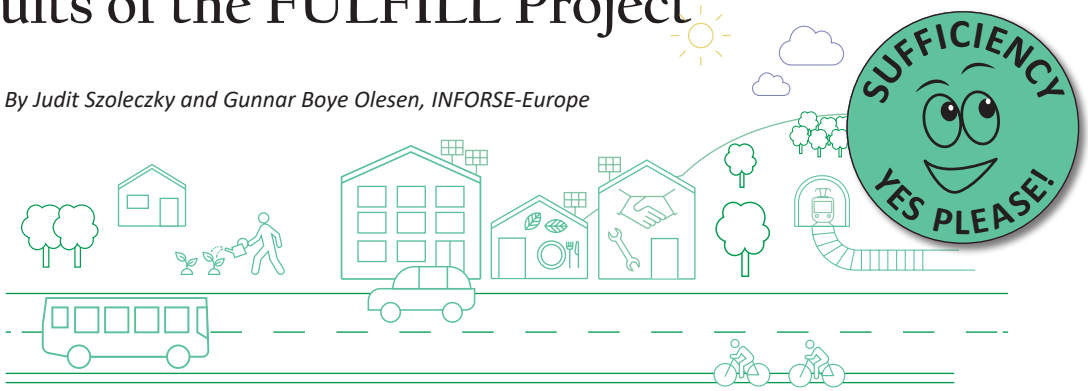
Every dollar invested in nuclear power **diverts funds from the real solutions of renewable energy and energy efficiency.** Additionally, the plan to triple nuclear until 2050 is both **unrealistic and much too late** to make a dent in GHG emission reductions.

More: https://www.dont-nuke-the-climate.org/

Sufficiency - Decarbonization through Lifestyle Changes & Wellbeing for All Within Planetary Boundaries Research Results of the FULFILL Project

▲ Presentations of the results of the FULFILL project at EUSEW 2024 in Brussels, and at UNFCCC SB60 in Bonn. Participants of the citizens science workshop at a sustainable guided tour in Paris. FULFILL project meeting in Brussels,

By Judit Szoleczky and Gunnar Boye Olesen, INFORSE-Europe



The FULFILL Project *"Fundamental Decarbonisation Through Sufficiency By Lifestyle Changes"*, is ending and will present its results at the final event in Brussels on September 18, 2024. The project is an interdisciplinary social science project exploring how sufficiency lifestyle changes and citizen engagement contribute to decarbonising Europe, while at the same time contribute to well-being.

The project, where INFORSE-Europe is a partner, is bringing together research institutes, academia, think-tanks and NGOs. The recommendations are validated through citizen science activities.

The partners are Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research (coordinator) and Wuppertal Institute in Germany, EURAC and POLIMI in Italy, negaWatt and Jacques Delors Institute in France, Green Liberty in Latvia, and INFORSE-Europe in Denmark. The FULFILL project is funded by the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme of the European Union.

During the project, the partners conducted **21,000 survey** of citizens and **160 interviews**. **50 citizens' initiatives** were studied, **3 citizen science workshops** were organised, an **input-output model** was used to quantify the effects of sufficiency policies, **16 policies** and **4 NECPs** were analysed as input to the EU NDC to the UNFCCC process. As results, the project provides more than **30 publications** including **recommendations** to policy makers.

Update on the Project

Policies promoting sustainable lifestyles are increasingly seen as a positive addition to climate polices, partly because of their opportunities to strengthen climate strategies. INFORSE-Europe has participated in the FULFILL project to evaluate how sustainably Europeans live today and how future policies promoting sustainable lifestyles can be integrated. Recent findings of the project:

- **Climate effects of upscaling** selected sufficiency actions and policies in the EU (D.6.2)
- **Social impacts** (on health, poverty reduction, gender equality) of 8 sufficiency actions (D.6.3)
- A proposal to **go beyond relying on GDP** and introducing a Sustainable Prosperity Index for a more comprehensive way to evaluate policies, and testing it on sufficiency actions (D.6.4)
- Sufficiency policies in the **national climate plans** of 4 EU countries (Denmark, France, Germany, Italy) are compared with sufficiency policies proposed by the FULFILL project and other research

The highlights of the entire FULFILL project are now summarised in a **policy brief** *"Unlocking Sufficiency at the EU, National, and Local level" (D8.2).*

In these four pages, we show some of the highlights from the project.

For all results see https://fulfill-sufficiency.eu/ .
For research papers including the above mentioned D.6.2, D6.3, D6.4, D8.2 see https://fulfill-sufficiency.eu/our-research/, and for sufficiency policies in national climate plans, see https://inforse.org/europe/FULFILL.htm

FULFILL PROJECT

Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Union

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Zaļā brīvība
eurac research
INFORSE-EUROPE International Network for Sustainable Energy
POLITECNICO MILANO 1863
ASSOCIATION négaWatt
NOTRE EUROPE Institut Jacques Delors
Wuppertal Institut

Research conducted in 5 EU countries + India

▲ The results of the FULFILL Project was presented at EUSEW in Brussels, Belgium in June 2024.

What is Sufficiency? - A Literature Review

As one of the first steps, the project partners created a collection of literature on sufficiency on Zotero.org and published a comprehensive review of the existing knowledge.

The meaning and usage of the relatively new word "sufficiency" was also explored in the partners countries' languages, namely in French, German, Italian, Danish, and Latvian. In French the word "sobriété" has become quite known, while in other languages, other words with similar meanings such as "sustainable lifestyle" or "green lifestyle" are popular.

The best definition is based on a recent IPCC report. **Sufficiency** is about creating the social, infrastructural, and regulatory conditions for **changing individual and collective lifestyles** in a way that **reduces energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions** to an extent that they remain within **planetary boundaries**, and simultaneously contributes to **societal wellbeing.**

If everyone lived like an average European, we would need **three planets** to sustain us. At the same time, consumption levels are unfairly distributed across the population, with income and carbon emissions being highly correlated. At the same time, many people struggle to satisfy their basic energy needs.

Sufficiency - Globally and in EU

The benefits of sufficiency - behavioural changes are increasingly recognised by policy makers, UN IPCC, IEA, and the EU as part of the SER framework of 3 approaches: **Sufficiency Efficiency Renewables (SER).**

In March 2024, a European "Sufficiency Manifesto", signed by more than 80 organisations called for sufficiency policies to be integrated into the EU.

In June 2024, the FULFILL project organised an event and exhibition on sufficiency at the **European Commission's event of EUSEW in Brussels,** which raised a lot of interest.

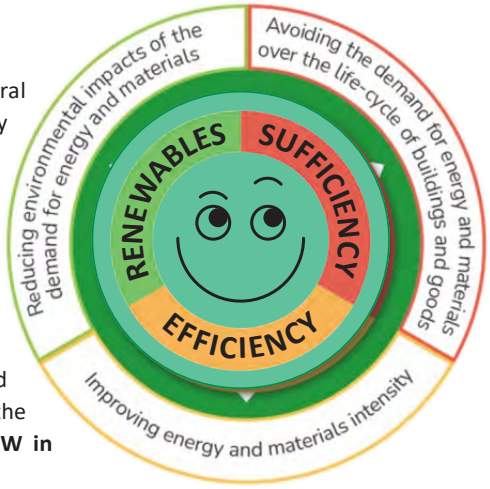
Similarly, the parallel conference of the **ECEEE conference** had several presentations on sufficiency.

The global interest increased after the recent **IPCC report** defining sufficiency. To improve understanding, the FULFILL project contributed with presentations on the **side events at UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai and SB60 in Bonn, Germany.**

Today, there is an **increasing understanding** that **sufficiency can help achieving the EU's climate goals more cost-effectively and more likely to be reached. It will also help to decrease the EU's dependence on energy imports and other critical resources.**

The FULFILL project's findings contribute to achieving this in the EU, and beyond.

Continued on page 10



European Sufficiency Manifesto INFORSE-Europe is among the 80 organisations joining the European sufficiency manifesto *"A Resilient and Resource-Wise Europe: Sufficiency and the Heart of EU's Future"*, calling for sufficiency policies to be integrated into EU (and national) policies, including specific proposals for the types of sufficiency actions to be promoted. See: https://inforse.org/europe/pdfs/Joint_manifesto-sufficiency-in-heart-of-EUs-future_2024.pdf

>21000 citizen surveys

50 sufficiency citizen initiatives studied

160 interviews conducted

16 sufficiency policies analysed

3 citizen science workshops carried out

Input-output models used to quantify effects of sufficiency measures

>30 project publications

4 countries' NECPs analysed

Researching Sufficiency - Barriers, Enablers, Benefits, Co-benefits

Barriers: Individuals face a range of barriers to choose a sufficient lifestyle, as current policies and infrastructures often favour unsustainable lifestyles:

These barriers identified among others:

- Train tickets are more expensive than plan tickets.
- Cities are designed for cars, often lacking cycling infrastructure, while public transportation is too often insufficient or missing.
- Plant-based food options are not always easily available.
- Often cheaper and quicker to replace a broken item with a new one than repairing it.
- Lack of education on the risks associated with high meat consumption for health professionals and individuals.
- There is limited awareness about sufficiency as a concept, the environmental impacts of current habits, and the benefits of a sufficiency lifestyle.
- Social norms can discourage sustainable choices, e.g., as a preference of individual housing over shared housing.

How Can the Barriers be Overcome?

For lasting change, sufficiency cannot rely solely on individual responsibility and action. It requires a societal debate and the creation of supportive social, infrastructural, and regulatory conditions to overcome the barriers that individuals face.

Benefits of Local Sufficiency Initiatives

On a local level, sufficiency initiatives formed by citizens offer multiple benefits for their cities and for those involved e.g., repair cafes, bike rental services, car sharing, recycling shops, co-housing,

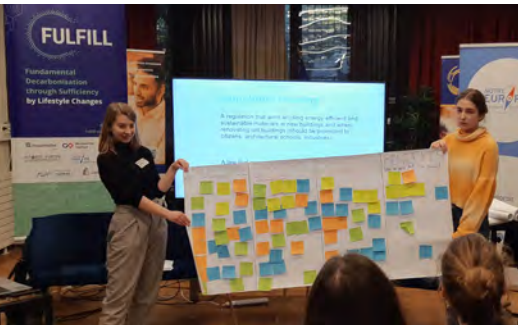
Benefits include: • Health benefits • Education, skills • Sense of belonging • Financial advantages

Engaged Citizens Support Sufficiency

When given the opportunity to express their views in decision-making processes and learn more about sufficiency, citizens tend to support sufficiency policies. Recommendations made by citizen assemblies contain significantly more sufficiency policies (three to six times more) than policy makers list in the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs).

Uninformed citizens tend to prefer softer policy measures over more restrictive ones. However, acceptance can be increased through engaging citizens and informing them about sufficiency as well as designing policies in a socially just way.

▼ Photos from the citizen science workshop in Paris in November 2023.



Co-benefits:

- Health benefits of reduced meat consumption
- Fairer prices that reflect the environmental costs of production
- Increased animal welfare

Food

Current diets are increasingly unhealthy, unsustainable, and inequitable for many people. When it comes to food, sufficiency means eating healthier and more climate friendly food, for example by reducing animal products in our diets. Changing diets has the biggest potential to reduce individual CO_2 emissions among all the policy measures studied in the FULFIL project.

Enablers:

- Increased availability and affordability of plant-based products
- Meat-free days in public and corporate canteens
- Better placement of vegetarian food in canteens
- Education on health benefits of reduced meat consumption
- Advertisement regulation
- Food industry regulation

Housing

Energy efficiency gains in buildings in the EU were almost completely offset by increases in floor area per capita. At the same time, many Europeans struggle with unaffordable housing. Thus, sufficiency regarding living space is an indispensable lever to decarbonise the housing sector while contributing to the provision of adequate housing for all.

Sufficiency in housing: • *Co-housing* • *Community living* • *Sharing common areas* • *Sharing appliances* • *Exchanging living space.*

Decreasing the number of square meters per person or reducing under-occupied housing would be a way to move towards more sufficient lifestyles.

Options to enable better use of space include:

- Developing more shared housing options
- Incentivising the exchange of apartments between people who have more space than they need and those who live in overcrowded places.

Co-benefits:

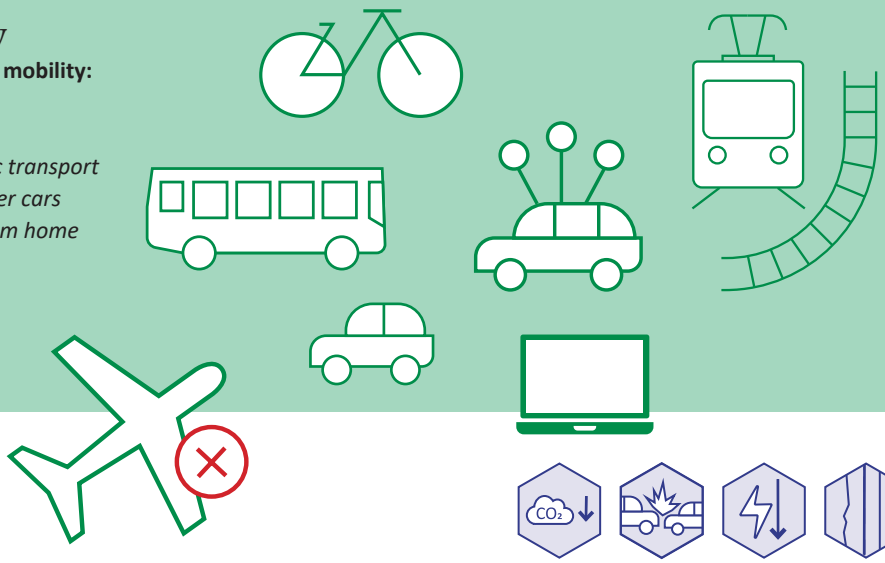
- Social aspects
- Mental health
- Contribute to solving the housing crisis.

(Check out: How many people feel that they have more /less space than they need.)

Mobility

Sufficiency in mobility:

- *Biking more*
- *Flying less*
- *Using public transport*
- *Using smaller cars*
- *Working from home*
- *Car sharing.*



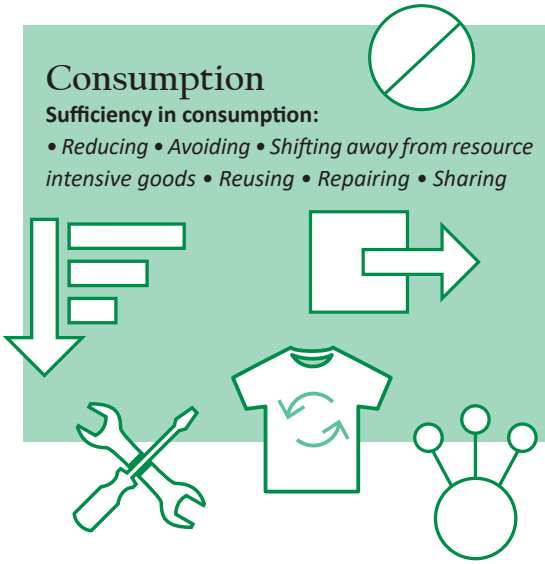
Co-benefits:

- Less pollution
- Less lethal traffic accidents
- Reduced energy consumption
- Less degradation of road infrastructures
- Reduced raw material consumption
- More road space for active modes (including less space needed for parking)
- Lower costs.

Consumption

Sufficiency in consumption:

• Reducing • Avoiding • Shifting away from resource intensive goods • Reusing • Repairing • Sharing



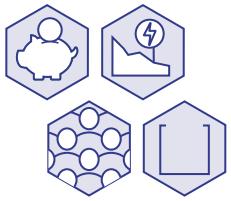
Enablers:

Regulation and infrastructure can enable or hinder a more sufficient approach to consumption. Examples for enabling factors include:

- Legislation enforcing common areas in new buildings and when deep renovations are carried out e.g. for common laundry facilities;
- Better repair services;
- No more planned obsolescence;
- Discourage single-use disposable items e.g. through fees for appliances

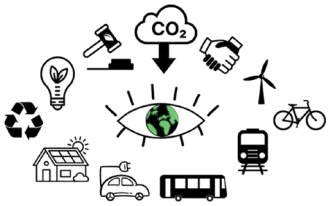
Co-benefits:

- Financial savings
- Less resource and energy use
- Social interactions;
- Gain of space



▲ Illustrations are from the infographics of the FULFILL project.

Follow the results at: www.fulfill-sufficiency.eu



Better Green Deal - Better Climate Mitigation Policies

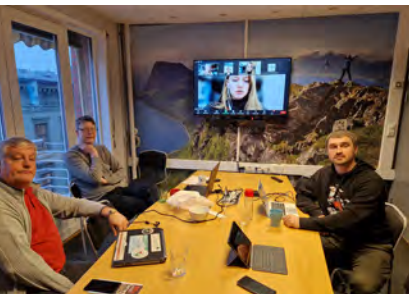
By Gunnar Boye Olesen, INFORSE-Europe

For one year, INFORSE-Europe has been working with CSOs from Belarus, Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, and Ukraine to analyse how each country has implemented the European Green Deal with national climate plans and policies, and what would be the best practice policies. Our work primarily focussed on phasing out fossil fuels.

We also developed visions and proposals for policies, worked on scenarios for the renewable energy transition in Latvia and Lithuania, organised seminars and national webinars, and presented the results for the Nordic Council's Committee for a Sustainable Nordic Region in June 2024.

The types of policies we analysed include:

- Climate Laws and targets
- Climate taxation and VAT reductions, including road pricing/toll roads
- Energy efficiency
- Transport
- Renewable energy and fuel shift, including electrification
- Other important climate policies.



▲ At the project meeting in Oslo in Norway the participants were both in person and online.

▲ The project's working group are: Gunnar Boye Olesen, Judit Szoleczky, INFORSE-Europe; Reinhold Pape, Fredrik Lundberg, AirClim, Sweden; Dag Arne Høystad, Norges Naturvernforbund, Norway; Jānis Matulis, Latvian Green Movement, Latvia; Domantas Tracevičius, Circular Economy, Lithuania; Irina Sukhy, Uladzimir Rak, Ecohome, Belarus; Sofia Sadogurska, Kostiantyn Krynytskyi, Ecoaction, Ukraine.

The results of the Better Green Deal Project will be presented at the European NGO seminar in Talsi, Latvia + online in September 25-27, 2024
Read more at https://inforse.org/europe/seminar_2024_INFORSE-Europe_Latvia.htm

Climate Laws and Targets

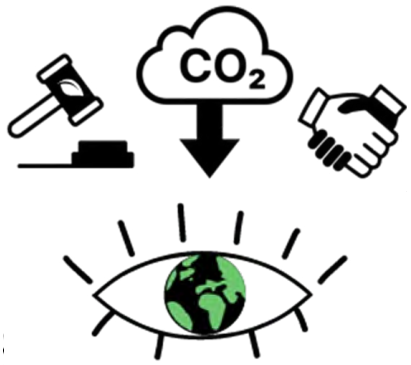
Climate laws and targets are widely used in Nordic and Baltic countries and they are important frameworks for climate action. A climate law is under development in Ukraine, but not in Belarus. Climate Laws typically include:

- Climate Targets
- A process for regular evaluation of national climate actions and progress toward achieving climate targets with an annual review process
- Establishment of an independent climate council to oversee progress in achieving targets

We find that the best practice is to include all of the above, and that the most effective approach is having a law adopted by the national Parliament. This is the case in Denmark, Norway, and Lithuania.

Regarding targets, the civil society experts found that the best practice is to set ambitious targets in line with a fair contribution to keep global warming to 1.5'C, combined with:

- Targets covering multi-annual budgets, for instance for 5-year periods, not just a single target year.

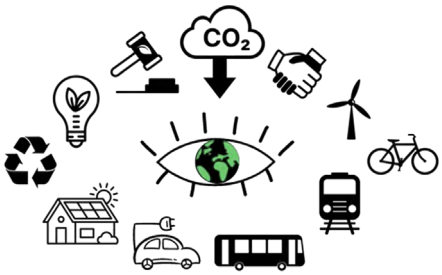


- Targets covering the entire economy, but also including separate targets for LULUCF and other emissions.
- Targets that do not include use of credits for emission reductions outside the country instead of national reductions.
- Supplementary targets for reducing emissions from imports, international aviation and shipping.
- Targets for climate drivers that are not covered by the UNFCCC (e.g. vapour from aviation, black carbon, imported biomass). It can also include targets for emissions caused by other activities outside the country such as financing, as soon as robust methodology is developed.

The project partners are:
INFORSE-Europe (coordinator) in Denmark, Norges Naturvernforbundet in Norway, AirClim in Sweden, Circular Economy in Lithuania, Latvian Green Movement, Ekokoncepcija in Lithuania representing civil society - Ecohome NGO in Belarus, and Ecoaction in Ukraine.
The project is supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers, AirClim and INFORSE-Europe.

No country includes all of these elements in its climate targets. Denmark, Lithuania, and Ukraine include LULUCF, and the target is only for national reductions. For Denmark, however, this is only the case for the national targets. Denmark's non-ETS target to the EU (for sectors outside the EU emissions trading scheme) allows for up to an 8% reduction achieved through flexibilities similar to buying GHG credits from other EU countries.

Regarding ambition, Denmark's 70% reduction 1990 – 2030 is the most ambitious 2030 target. In terms of greenhouse gas neutrality, Sweden has the most ambitious target, aiming to achieve neutrality by 2045.



Climate Taxation and Tax/VAT Reductions

Carbon taxes and tax/VAT reductions are important policy instruments to "make the polluter pay" and to drive climate action. They are widely used in the Nordic-Baltic countries, including:

- Carbon/GHG tax for sectors outside EU-ETS sectors,
- Carbon/GHG tax for sectors covered by EU-ETS (planned in Denmark)
- Taxes on HFCs & other strong greenhouse gases
- Aviation passenger taxes
- Tax/VAT reduction/exemption for public transport
- Road pricing and payment for driving in cities

Taxes should be sufficiently high to drive action to reduce emissions without relying on long-term subsidies for alternatives. For taxes on households, compensation for low-income households may be necessary, preferably in the form of direct support, or as a minimum consumption level for taxation of low-income households.

Across the different climate taxes, Denmark will lead the way when current plans for an aviation passenger tax and GHG taxes are introduced inside and outside the sectors covered by the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). Regarding road pricing, Norway and Sweden lead the way with payment for entering main cities.

The best practice includes combining taxes with policies that promote alternatives, such as improving trains in combination with aviation taxes.

Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency is the first fuel in the energy transition. Energy efficiency policies and measures are important to drive a fast reduction of emissions in sustainable ways. EU legislation is driving energy efficiency in all countries analysed, while national initiatives are strengthening the push for energy efficiency. In most countries, national initiatives include subsidies.

One forward-looking national policy is a limit on life-cycle emissions from new buildings, a measure that combines energy efficiency in the use phase with energy efficiency and low emissions in the construction phase. This is introduced in Denmark, but currently with too high limits to have a significant effect.

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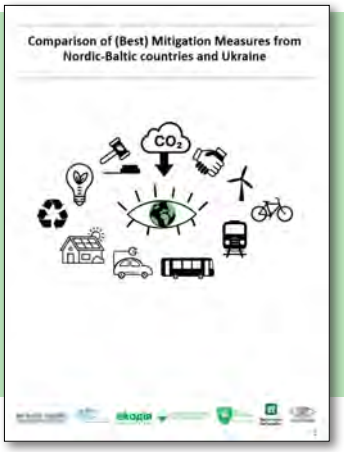
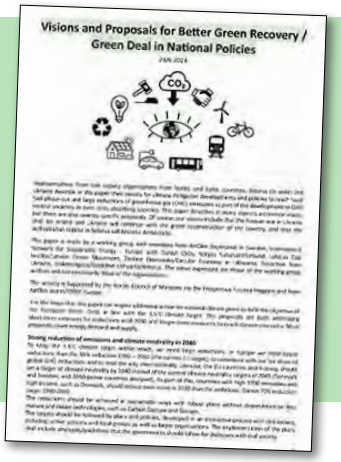
▲ During the project meeting, the partners participated on a sustainable energy tour in Oslo, Norway. Among others they visited a construction site, where all machines and transport vehicles were electric.


Comparison of (Best) Mitigation Measures from Nordic-Baltic countries and Ukraine

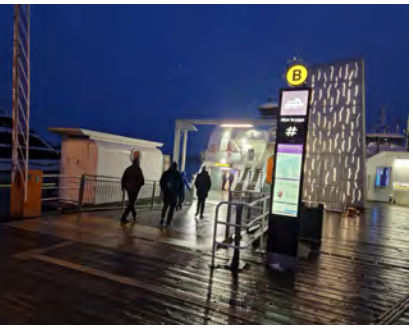

The Best Nordic - Baltic Mitigation Measures to Combat Climate Change
Policy Brief


Visions and Proposals for Better Green Recovery / Green Deal in National Policies

The report, policy briefs and fact sheets with results are available from *https://inforse.org/europe/Better_GreenDeal_Baltic_project.htm*

The results were presented to the Nordic Council's Committee for a Sustainable Nordic Region on June 25, 2024.

The final presentation will be at the European Seminar in Latvia on September 25-27, 2024.



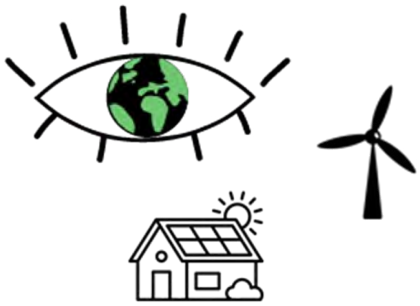
▲ Electric ferry in Olso, which was also part of the sustainable energy tour during the project meeting.

Transport Policies

Transport policies are important for reversing the trend of ever-increasing transport, which makes it very hard to achieve a real phase-out of all GHG emissions from the transport sectors. Some of the main policies are:

- Bicycle infrastructure support, which is supported in most countries, but in some countries with too low budgets
- Support for public transport, which is provided in most countries, but in some countries, the level of support is inadequate to make it a success
- Support for international trains, and night trains, for instance Sweden has introduced new night train services to Germany
- Above-mentioned taxation of fossil fuels

The best practice is a combination of all these policies, and also include land-use planning to minimise transport demands.



Renewable Energy and Fuel Shift Away from Fossil Fuels

Renewable energy and the fuel shift from fossil fuels to renewables are also important policy aims. We identified the following policies and measures currently in use in the countries for this:

- Renewable energy targets
- Siting of wind and solar parks
- Support for local energy communities
- Subsidy for solar energy
- Phase out fossil fuel - based heating, replacing it with heat pumps, district heating
- Emission free construction sites, as now required in some Norwegian towns
- Support for electric cars, preferably with the same support for all electric cars in a socially just way.
- Stop the sale of new fossil fuel driven cars, as Norway is planning from 2025
- Subsidy for electric shipping, including ferries, fishing boats and smaller cargo ships
- Support for hydrogen, which must be limited to green hydrogen and only for use in hard-to-abate sectors as hydrogen production has losses and is generally less efficient than direct electricity use (in transport for instance).
- Biomass diversification, in particular to reduce/ avoid local air pollution (not a measure to reduce fossil fuel, but still important).

Correctly used, all these policies can be best practices.

Other Important Climate Policies

The above policies and measures were analysed in the study, but we also found other good mitigation measures:

- Reduction of food waste
- Policies promoting plant-based food
- Agricultural policies to reduce emissions from agriculture and agricultural inputs, such as fertiliser.
- Increasing carbon stocks through ecosystem restoration, soil protection measures, preventing forest. degradation, restoring degraded lands, reducing the area of ploughed land, etc
- Sufficiency policies to promote more sustainable lifestyles, reducing transport demands, housing size, consumption, etc
- Circular economy policies to reduce the climate footprint of consumption

Not all mitigation measures are good, and we identified some mitigation measures that do NOT lead to good improved climate solutions:

- Nuclear power, as it is a risky and very expensive technology.
- Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). Given the costs and technological risks, CCS has the potential to slow down climate action and should not replace other, more reliable solutions.
- Liquid biofuels with high life-cycle GHG emissions.

Read more: https://inforse.org/europe/Better_Green-Deal_Baltic_project.htm

NEWS from INFORSE-Europe

INFORSE-Europe European NGO Seminar Date: September 25-27, 2024
INFORSE-Europe General Meeting - Date: September 28, 2024

Venue: Talsi, Latvia + online
Read more at *https://inforse.org/europe/seminar_2024_INFORSE-Europe_Latvia.htm*

INFORSE-Europe in New Climate-Energy Education Project for Youth

INFORSE-Europe is starting a new project, "Energy Literacy for Youth (ELY)". The project focuses on capacity building for youth education, aiming to enhance the skills and abilities of young people to become active citizens in the fields of climate change and renewable energy. We will develop training materials and conduct training for youth in selected EU countries. The project is in cooperation with partners from Poland (coordinator), Germany, Cyprus, and a European youth network.
INFORSE members will be invited to use the training materials for their own activities. The project is supported by the EU ERASMUS+ program. Follow the project on INFORSE-Europe's website when activities start in October, 2024. See: *https://inforse.org/europe*.

UK, Wales: Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) - Study at CAT

A long term INFORSE member, the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales, UK recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. CAT is a world-renowned eco centre on greener ways of living.
The Centre is providing people with the skills, knowledge, and inspiration to discover practical solutions that address the climate and biodiversity crisis.

The Centre offers both short and long courses as well as higher education programs. Through the environmental postgraduate courses, you can study towards degrees like 'Sustainability in Energy Provision and Demand Management' or 'Sustainability and Adaptation' amog others. The flexible study options also allow you to study in person at CAT or study completely by distance learning.
Find out more at CAT att. Paul Allen *https://cat.org.uk/courses-and-training/graduate-school/*

50 1973 – 2023 Centre for Alternative Technology Canolfan y Dechnoleg Amgen

Germany: Artefact - Solar Car Race Raises Youth Interest on Renewable Technology

The Youth competition "Solar Mobil Germany" invites participants to races with solar cars. For the 16th time, youth teams aged 10 to 25 years old from all over Germany come together with their self-built mini solar racers, this time on September 28 in Dortmund. One of the competition's founders is Artefact, an INFORSE member, that also runs Germany´s first energy infotainment park, Klimapark Glücksburg, near to the Danish-German border. In 2009, Artefact initiated the first "Schleswig-Holstein Solarcup" at provincial level. One year later 8 initiatives met for the first German-wide competition. Thousands of children and young adults have thus far participated in the regional and national competitions, which are primilary organized by local NGOs or schools. This year's competition is also patronized by the German Climate Minister. One of the benefits is that the participants get new inspirations for their further studies to be renewable-energy engineers, or electricians.

More info: www.artefact.de www.solarmobil-deutschland.de

solarcup artefact

Denmark: VE, Samsø EA, Nordic Folkecenter Organise Debates on EU

The Danish INFORSE-Europe members cooperate in organising events on EU and climate policy. This year, several events were held, where EU Parliament candidates were invited to debate. The events were organised with support from the Europa-Nævnet, Denmark. *See: www.inforse.org/europe*

Denmark: Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy Active in Denmark and in Mali and Uganda

The Nordic Folkecenter is a big center for renewable energy demonstration, research, and education in the north west of Denmark. The Center also offers short courses, conferences, and traineeship for young people, as well as established similar centers in Mali and Uganda. *See: www.folkecenter.net*

Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy

INFORSE-Europe on New Ecodesign

The EU Ecodesign Directive, which has helped reduce energy consumption for over a decade, has now become the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR). This new regulation expands the scope to include products that do not use energy. In addition to reducing energy use and emissions, the ESPR also aims to ensure that products last longer, are easier to repair and recycle, and contain fewer problematic chemicals and more recycled materials. As it is a framework regulation, ahead is a long process to develop individual regulations for product groups. Only with detailed regulations will the product requirements become binding.

INFORSE-Europe continues to work for better Ecodesign regulations in cooperation with the Coolproducts campaign, including new requirements and labels for boilers, heat pumps, wood stoves, kitchen fume extractors and others. *See https://www.coolproducts.eu/*

coolproducts for a cool planet

NEWS from INFORSE-Europe/Americas

▲ Presentation at the local school. Photo by EPEN, Hungary..

Hungary: EPEN Assists Community Energy Planning in a Hilly Area

The Environmental Planning and Education Network (EPEN), a Hungarian member of INFORSE-Europe, is collaborating with the Department of Environmental and Landscape Geography of the ELTE University to accelerate the energy transition in the Bükk Hills with research on energy geography and thermal energy planning.

The work started with support from the Energy Poverty Advisory Hub, managed by the European Commission, in the village of Bükkszentkereszt, where a comprehensive study of household energy use was carried out. The data collection for the situation assessment was based on door-to-door and online questionnaires, on-site building surveys and the results of an air pollution survey in the municipality.

The research also set out a practical objective to reduce air pollution through a more conscious use of firewood and to improve the situation of families affected by energy poverty.

The longer-term aim of the work is to provide professional support for municipal thermal energy planning and to set up an „energy courtyard" that provides dry, ready to use firewood for heating. To this end, a concept was developed, full involvement of the local population and stakeholders, serving as a basis for the creation of the energy courtyard. An important part of the programme was educating school children on the best practice for clean wood burning.

More information EPEN, and ELTE University att. Béla Munkácsy, https://knhoe.blog.hu/

▲ Test station with CooKit reflective panel solar cooker with oven bag. Photo by SCI.

USA: Solar Cookers International Published New Research on Testing Efficiency of Solar Cookers

Earlier in 2024, Solar Cookers International (SCI) developed and implemented a calculation to measure the cooking efficiency of solar thermal cookers. This research was published in Solar Energy Advances, an official journal of the International Solar Energy Society.

The calculation complements and enhances SCI's existing performance evaluation process (PEP), which can now be used to determine both the standard cooking power and the cooking efficiency for solar thermal cookers.

The research was supported by the Northstar Sustainability Fund.

Presently, the **testing centers** are located at INFORSE members at SCI in the USA and at the Center for Rural Technologies (CRT/N) in Nepal, and at the University of Nairobi in Kenya.

On the home page of SCI, you can view the **test reports for 13 different solar cookers, including** box ovens, reflective solar cookers, parabolic reflectors, and evacuated tube solar cookers. You can also **request a test** and you can **support funding** of new test stations.

More info: SCI, att. Alan W. Bigelow, Ph.D., Justin Tabatchnick, and Caitlyn Hughes.
https://www.solarcookers.org/work/research

▲ Photo from the Latin American meeting on Energy Communities in Columbia in September 2023.

From INFORSE Latin America: Renewable Energy Generation is Booming, Now Local Solutions are on the Way - Discussed on a Regional CSO Meeting in Columbia

In September 2023, was the first regional CSO meeting on community energy in Latin America, where 160 delegates from 15 countries met in Colombia. In addition to renewable energy cooperatives, new forms of collaborative initiatives are coming .e.g., solar mini grids in villages. This is supported by local electricity regulation favouring shared connection points and local generation (e.g. in some provinces in Argentina). This also helps increasing the scale of local solutions, e.g., to megawatt level, enabling the use of larger wind turbines that produce cheap power. Local solutions include also batteries which help avoiding the transmission bottlenecks that plague grid expansion in most Latin American countries.

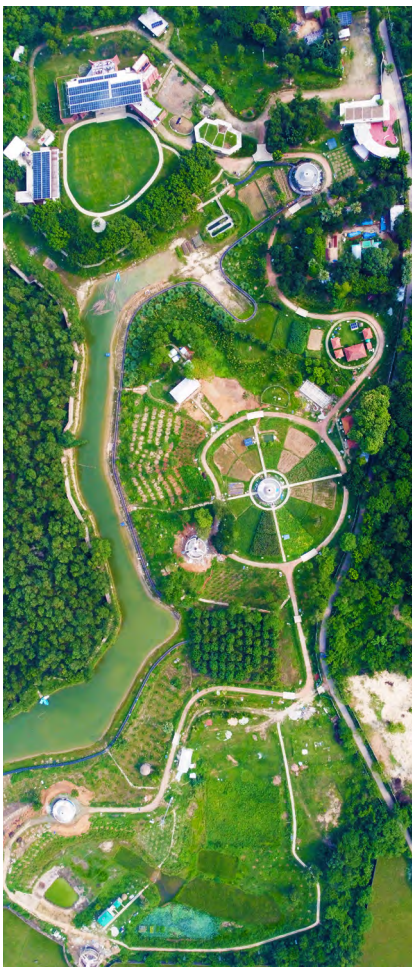
More info: INFORSE-Latin America, att. Roque Pedace, web sites: https://inforse.org/latinamerica/
https://agenciatierraviva.com.ar/energias-comunitarias-un-paradigma-que-se-abre-paso-en-latinoamerica/

Canada: Heat Pumps are in Focus by We c.a.r.e - NetZeroPLUS

The Canadian Association for Renewable Energies (we c.a.r.e.) is promoting heat pumps in Canada through a new campaign NetZeroPLUS .

Read more: www.renewables.ca and www.net-zero-plus.com. att. Bill Eggertson

NEWS from INFORSE-South Asia



Bangladesh: A New Climate Demonstration and Training Center at an INFORSE member

A first climate knowledge center in Bangladesh is welcoming visitors, providing training and demonstration facilities of renewable energy and sustainable technologies. It was established by the INFORSE member, *Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB).* It addresses the need in the region similarly to other INFORSE members like Center for Alternative Technology (CAT) in Wales, UK, Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy in Denmark, and Folkecenters in Mali, and Uganda.

In recent years, CCDB and INFORSE have exchanged experiences through the Eco-Village Development program in South Asia, exchange visits among members and meetings at the UNFCCC COPs.

The new center is on a 22-hectare picturesque area, 50 km from Dhaka. There is demonstration of climate change challenges and more than 100 climate mitigation and adaptation technology solutions in different climate zone environment.

The Center offers both short- and long-term courses, tailor-made programs, hands-on training, interactive learning and e-learning, opportunities in volunteering, and making research.

There is a dedicated space for the children and youth to learn through entertainment including stories, visuals, sound effects, models, thematic exhibitions, games, and theatre with access to both online and offline libraries.

The building is the first and only Net Positive (Energy) Centre in Bangladesh, which holds a LEED-standard green building certificate, fully powered by renewable energy. This ensures energy efficiency, proper water and waste management and reduces the overall environmental footprint. The park provides organic food production, and there are different climate zone habitats such as drought, hilly, wetland and coastal area.

The Centre is also working on the development of **innovative solutions** and **their distribution.** One of them is a double-burner hybrid cookstove reducing indoor air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, cooking time, and fuel consumption thereby reducing deforestation. Another emerging technology developed is a system producing drinking water from air humidity. There is a **Climate Portal** website, which is collecting climate change knowledge, solutions, financing, resources with a blog, and forum.

More: CCDB Climate Centre, Gazipur, Bangladesh. att. Ashrafuzzaman Khan. https://ccdbclimatecentre.com/ and https://climateportal.ccdbbd.org/

India: AIWC and INFORSE Strengthen Cooperation

In 2023, INFORSE had an exhibition together with All India Women Conference (AIWC) at UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai, and decided to strengthen the cooperation and explore possible opportunities and synergies of working together. We also held an online meeting, where AIWC participated from several of its 500+ branches in India.

AIWC has been a member and gender focal point of INFORSE since 1995. AIWC has been working for climate change mitigation and poverty reduction through promotion of renewable energy especially in rural areas. Examples include raising awareness on climate change impacts for women, workshops teaching women to assemble solar lanterns, generate income of using solar fruit dryers, and installing efficient cookstoves.

In recent years, AIWC has been actively engaged in the UNFCCC process through the Women and Gender Constituency. AIWC is co-coordinator of the Gender Just Climate Solutions Awards at UNFCCC COPs together with Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF).

During the INFORSE-AIWC online meeting, we identified areas for working together. One area is the climate benefits of sustainable lifestyle, where INFORSE participated in a European research project that also included India, and a case provided by AIWC.

Another area is further cooperation on the eco-village development concept with participatory planning, where a socio-technical training manual was published - also in Hindi - and a database of solutions were created. AIWC already provided several solutions cases to the database.

We are looking forward to further collaborating activities and at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

▲ The INFORSE-AIWC team at the exhibition stall of the UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai in November 2023.

More info: AIWC att. Kalyani Raj, Manju Kak, Usha Nair, and Bhuvaneswari Ravindran https://www.aiwc.org.in/ Database of local solutions: https://inforse.org/evd/

More News from Bangladesh & South Asia - WePOWER and Eco-Village Development Database

Grameen Shakti (GS) is partner of the World Bank's WePOWER initiative to empower women in the power sector, and trained more than 100 women. *Read more: https://www.gshakti.org/what-we-do/keyprojects/wepower*

INFORSE members also finalised the Eco-Village Development Project, which was a regional cooperation among INFORSE members, GS in Bangladesh, CRT in Nepal, INSEDA in India, IDEA in Sri Lanka, and DIB in Denmark. The project included creation of an online database of solutions, publications and media. *https://inforse.org/evd/*

NEWS from INFORSE-Africa

Uganda: UCSD & JEEP - A Green Manifesto to Make Nebbi Green - Questions to Candidates for Local Elections

▲ Photos from the activities of the CAISL project in Uganda. Building efficient mud stove, radio spot, recycling workshop by young green ambassadors, energy hub at a market, and launch meeting of the Green Manifesto.

A Green Manifesto for those seeking political power in the Local Council Elections in Nebbi district in West Nile Region (Uganda), expected to take place in 2025, was launched at a meeting on August 29, 2024 in Nebbi Town. The meeting was attended by officers from the Nebbi District. They noted that energy poverty in the area is one of the biggest constraints to poverty reduction. They reported that 'There are no more trees for cooking, making it a burden for women to move very long distances in search for wood, which they sometimes even fail to get'. They urged the people of Nebbi to take on CAISL (see below) project's tree planting initiative seriously and to make use of the subsidized tree seedlings provided to secure a future firewood supply.

The Green Manifesto identifies 5 key areas that seek the attention of those vying for political leadership in Nebbi district local councils. These include:

- **The rising shortage of firewood** in the area and the lack of electricity as a practicable option to stop the widespread use of tree biomass,
- Continued use of the **wasteful three-stone stove** that, apart from consuming a lot of firewood, also contributes to the poor health of household members due to indoor air pollution;
- **Bush burning**, which is still widely practiced for hunting and clearing of farm land ahead of planting (dry season),
- **Climate change,** which is pushing people to wetlands, risking loss of biodiversity and risking flooding problems; and
- The poor **disposal of plastics** (especially single-use ones / Kaveera) in rural and urban areas.

Nebbi District in the West Nile is characterized by rapid population influx, overburdened services such as transport, education and health, scarcity of resources, and a lack of alternative energy sources. The district has a total population of 238,757 individuals with the majority being youth and women. There are also refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The utilisation of natural resources by the communities in Nebbi district has exacerbated existing issues related to natural resources management.

The Green Manifesto is an initiative under the *Climate Action for Sustainable Livelihoods (CAISL) Project* implemented by Joint Energy and Environment Projects (JEEP) and Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD) in partnership with the Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy supported by CISU Denmark. The Manifesto seeks to influence those seeking local council positions to come out clear on what they intend to do about environmental issues in Nebbi district. It also seeks to equip citizens with knowledge about the environmental issues that ought to be highlighted by those seeking leadership positions.

More info: UCSD, INFORSE-East Africa att. Richard Kimbowa and Prossie Nabiyonga JEEP, Uganda.
Read the Green Manifesto for Local Council Elections 2025 to #MakeNebbiGreen from here:
https://ugandacoalition.or.ug/sites/default/files/docs/Final%20Green%20Manifesto%2022082024.pdf
Read more about the CAISL project:
https://jeepfolkecenter.org/projects/caisl/
https://www.folkecenter.net/caisl/

Tanzania: TAREA - Invites to Webinar on Institutional Solar PV Kitchen - 24 September 2024 14.00-15.30.

The Tanzanian INFORSE member, Tanzania Renewable Energy Association (TAREA), invites to the webinar on the technology and financing model that enables most of Tanzania's institutions using firewood for cooking to transition to electricity powered by solar PV. Until recently, the solar PV was limited and not used for large scale cooking. However, a technological breakthrough has made this possible. Atmosfair GmbH and Watu na Umeme Ltd, in cooperation with Ensol (T) Limited - a member of TAREA - have installed a solar photovoltaic kitchen with four 170 litre pots that cook for more than 600 students at Magnificat Secondary School in Sanya Juu, Kilimanjaro Region, Tanzania.

Registration to attend the webinar is under events at TAREA's web site https://tarea-tz.org/ . More info: TAREA att. Matthew Matimbwi.
Read more on e-cooking in the INFORSE East Africa Database of Local Solutions under cooking https://localsolutions.inforse.org/

Online Catalogue: 80+ Local Sustainable Solutions in East Africa in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania

www.localsolutions.inforse.org

The solutions in main and subcategories include:
Improved cookstoves for both household and institutions as schools; biogas for cooking; solar cookers, hay boxes, e-cookers; solar electricity pumping water for clean drinking water, and irrigation; solar lanterns; solar home systems and community mini grids powering light, refrigerators, mobiles phones, TV, and production equipments; solar water heaters, solar food dryers; organic kitchen gardening and vegetables for market; tree planting; products from trees; and transportation with bicycles for go to school, work, and for carry goods, as well as e-bikes, and electric 2/3 wheelers.

Published by the EASECA Project supported by CISU, Denmark.
Partners: INFORSE, UCSD, JEEP, TaTEDO, Suswatch and NFRE.
The full printed ublication is in English. The 12-page Brochure is in English, Swahili, Luo, Luganda, and Runyankole.
W: inforse.org/africa/EASE.htm W: localsolutions.inforse.org

Online Database: 50+Local Solutions - 30+ Publications - 200+ Media in South Asia - in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka

www.inforse.org/evd

The solutions in seven main categories include:
- 2-pot and 1-pot improved cookstoves (ICS) with chimney
- efficient ICS making also hot water
- solar powered lanterns and street lights
- mini-grid powered by solar PV and micro hydro
- solar box cooker - solar fruit dryer
- efficient e-cooking - household biogas plants
- composting baskets - rain water collecting tanks
- organic gardening, bamboo used for compost baskets, solar dryers and as reinforcement with cement at biogas plants and water tanks
- participatory planning methodology

Training of Trainers Socio-technical manual available in English, Hindi, Nepali, Bangla, and Sinhala.
Published by the Eco-Village Development project supported by CISU, Denmark in 2020-2023.
Partners: INFORSE-South Asia members, CRT/N, IDEA, INSEDA Grameen Shakti, INFORSE, DIB and CANSA.
W: inforse.org/asia/EVD.htm W: inforse.org/evd

SELNEE Online Catalogue: What You Can Do to Save Energy and Use Renewables - English, Ukrainian and Russian
DIERET Online Education material NOW also in Ukrainian

Both online resources were finalised and updated in Ukrainian through the SELNEE Project supported by CISU, Denmark in 2021-2023.
The project partners were REA in Ukraine, NFRE in Denmark, CES in Belarus and INFORSE-Europe.

Read more: https://inforse.org/europe/SELNEE.htm
SELNEE Catalogue: https://selnee.rea.org.ua/en/
DIERET in Ukrainian: https://dieret.rea.org.ua/uk/
DIERET in English: https://inforse.org/europe/educat.htm
http://www.inforse.org/europe/dieret/dieret.html
DIERET in Slovak: www.inforse.org/europe/fae/OEZ/index.html

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INFORSE is a world-wide network of 145 non-governmental organizations in 60 countries

INFORSE was established in 1992 at the UN "Earth Summit" (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro to promote a transition to efficient and sustainable use of renewable energy.

The network and members work for increased use of renewable energy and sustainable development to improve the environment and to reduce poverty through advocacy as well as by raising awareness.

Advocacy at the United Nations:
INFORSE has NGO consultative status with the UN ECOSOC since 1998, and with the UNFCCC since 2002.
INFORSE has sent delegations to many of the UN Climate COP-meetings as observers, and organized official side events and exhibitions.

Advocacy at the European Union:
INFORSE-Europe is registered in the EU transparency lobby register and has a permanent seat at the EU Ecodesign Directives' consultations.

Communication:
The communication is facilitated by this newsletter, Sustainable Energy News, our web site, Facebook, Twitter, and an online database of more than 1000 relevant contacts.

Financial supporters of the network and projects have included CISU, DANIDA, EU, SIDA, Norden, AirClim, ECOS, and Europa-Nævnet.

Activities: INFORSE's member organizations often work together to achieve progress through policy advocacy, to build capacity through exchanges of information and of services, and through cooperation projects.

Past and present examples:

- Promoting local climate and sustainable energy solutions in East Africa.
- Eco-Village Developments as Climate Solutions in South Asia.
- Low-Carbon, Pro-Poor Development Strategies in Africa and South Asia.
- "Southern Voices on Climate Change", an NGO capacity-building program.
- Power of Community Energy, Europe.
- Local sustainable energy planning and advice center in Belarus.
- 100% renewable-energy scenarios for Kenya, Uganda, Denmark, Baltic Countries, Armenia, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, EU.
- Partner in Cool Products Campaign for the EU EcoDesign Directive etc.
- Integrating energy sufficiency in energy plans and scenarios.
- NGO cooperation projects in Eastern and Central European Countries.
- EU and sustainable energy information and debates in Denmark.
- Creation of a network of NGOs and researchers on low-carbon scenarios.
- Educational programs e.g., SPARE, DIERET, and a database of school materials.

INFORSE's Vision and Aims

INFORSE is a network of non-governmental organisations that are active in the field of sustainable energy.
We share a common vision:
A world where energy services, necessary for a just and human centered development, are provided in a sustainable way using renewable energy.

We emphasise:
• Defending the environment and combating climate change; • Phasing out nuclear and fossil energy consumption; • Increasing reliance on local solutions; • Ensuring equal access to energy across class, ethnic and gender lines; • Improving income generation through renewable energy solutions, particularly by the poor; and • Increasing energy efficiency.

INFORSE has consultative civil society organisation (CSO) status at the UN ECOSOC, and at the UNFCCC, and has participated on UN Conference of Parties with Side Events, and Exhibitions. See more on participation at the UN level at www.inforse.org/INFORSE-UN.php3 .

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