

# **Ice-Climate-Education 2009**

## **Topic 2: the future**

### **Going Green: Focus on Energy**

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## **A Letter to the leader of the federal German State Baden Württemberg.**

Dear Mister Öttinger,

I'm sure you know what the biggest problem of our society nowadays is. But if not I will tell it you. The biggest problem of our world is not war, it's also very bad but even worse is the climate change. Because many other problems are resulting out of the climate change, for example the water will be more seldom and the people all over the world will suffer but especially the poor countries in Africa because these regions for example the Sahel Zone will be dryer than they are right now. Even today it's hard for the people to live. But if it will be even more dryer it will be impossible to live there. So the people have no choice they need to emigrate. And this will cause a flood of emigration to Europe. And the Europe Union won't be able to handle such a flood of immigration. We have still enormous problems with illegal immigrants in southern part of the European Union and there are "just" several hundred thousands. Now imagine what will be when there are millions of immigrants. Another fact is, that the weather is changing dramatically there are the way more thunderstorms, hurricanes and other strange weather conditions. This have an enormous effect to our economy because these storms are causing lots of damage for example the hurricane "Katrina" which destroyed a large part of the U.S Gulf region and killed several people. And the bad thing about that is, that the people there are suffering from a increasing number of hurricanes which are even stronger than in the last decades.

Some animals will loosing their natural living ground for example polar bears there are just able to live in the arctic region. But now imagine the ice in the arctic is melting away, it would be the death of the polar bears because they need the ice to stand on it. They aren't able to swim long distances. And with the melting of the ice, the sea level will rise. In consequence many very beautiful cities and countries will be under water for example Bangladesh or even the Netherlands. This will also cause a huge flood of emigration and a great poorness of the people who are living in these regions.

Another problem is that the fossil fuels are running out in the next decades so we must try to compensate them with renewable and clean energy because without energy it's impossible to produce products, medicine and other important goods. But the new forms of gaining electricity and power must be clean other wise we will polluting the earth in the same way like we did in the past and we do in the present. And it will accelerate the global warming

with all the problems.

But we have a chance to avoid that, but we must handle the problems right now. I made some thoughts about that topic and I want to present you my solutions.

Of course the solutions aren't cheap but it could be a chance to improve the economy, all we have to do is "thinking green" and doing the necessary investment and Baden Württemberg will rise out of the worldwide recession stronger than ever before especially in a bad economically situation like we have it right now.

The first and one of the most important suggestion is, that we have to invest in new forms how we can produce energy. We must go away from the old resources like coal, oil and gas because they are expensive and in future we won't have any oil, gas and coal. And we can produce better stuff out of oil than burn it. We can produce medicine and plastic out of it. Another very negative fact is, that when we burning fossil fuels there are arising greenhouse gases. Another fact is, that we are dependent from other countries because we don't have natural fossil fuels deposits. Why don't we use a form of energy which is available in Baden Württemberg? This state has an enormous potential to be independent from fossil fuels. We have so many rivers and creeks like the Danube, Rhine and Neckar but nearly no hydroelectric power plant because we don't use that potential sufficiently. We have so many locks in our rivers but why don't we integrate a hydroelectric power plant??? Of course we have to take care of our fishes but that won't be a problem because we can also install fish steps. Or we can install some artificial lakes to make the hydroelectric power plant more efficient and it has other positive aspects for example these lakes could be used as parks in cities and it would be good for the fishes.

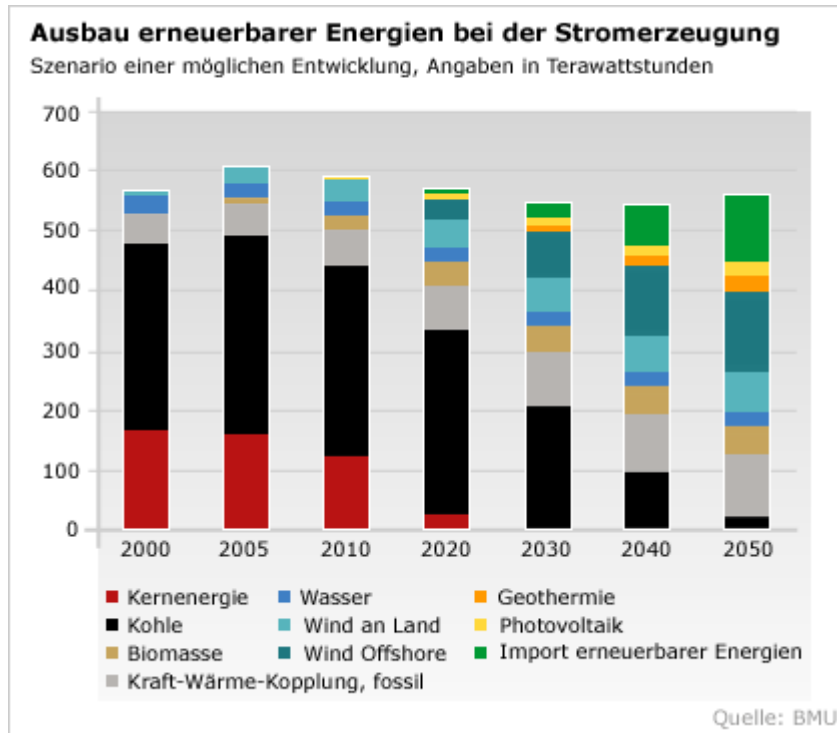
We can also produce Gas out of cattle because they produce a huge amount methane which is very harmful for our ozone layer. It would be also very efficient for the farmers because they would be able to turn rubbish into energy. And if they sell this energy, they can earn money with their cattle and with the energy out of gas of the cattle. We also can install more windparks. Sure it's ugly to see too much of them in the landscape but they are efficient and cheaper then build hydroelectric power plants. And we can build them in huge amounts. Another way of producing energy is solar we can install them on nearly every roof but they

are not very efficient in Baden Württemberg because we haven't enough sun. And they don't produce energy when it's dark. There are some plans of the European Union to build an enormously huge solar power plant in the desert Sahara and deliver the energy from Africa to Europe. It would be very efficient there because the sun is shining there always. But we will lose a lot of power on the delivery.

We need to improve our public transport because we need an alternative to the car. There are over 50 million cars which are allowed to drive. And the 50 million cars are responsible for emitting a huge amount of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. It must be an important goal in politics to improve the public transport. I agree with your statements to build the huge "Stuttgart 21" railway project because it improves traffic system in Baden Württemberg enormously. And we can build new parks in the area where the old railway was and so we can improve the life quality of the inhabitants and we clean up the air with trees.

When we are talking from cars we shouldn't forget that Baden Württemberg is one of the main car producers in the world with his two world famous companies Porsche and Daimler Benz and uncountable small and big supplier. Many jobs are depending on the Automotive industry in Baden Württemberg. So we need to find a good compromise. And I think I find one we need to invest in new forms of engines. For example the fuel cell or the pure electric car of course the hybrid technology is a good transition between the old engines and the new ones. But we need a total cut to save our environment so we must be brave and introduce for example the fuel cells in the next couple years. This has three advantages for Baden Württemberg. First we can reach a world leadership in environmental friendly cars and engine technologies the next is that we can save the nature a little bit and so we can improve our life quality and the third advantage is, that Baden Württemberg will get a very good international image. So if we invest, we have the chance to make much profit and to save the environment. We need also harder environmental protection laws for example every company is allowed to emit a defined amount of Greenhouse gases if they emit more they have to pay a high punishment and if they emit less than they are allowed to emit they can sell it on a special market. I think that would be a great compromise between companies and environmental protection. The European Union has already such a system for energy supplier but they have a weakness in their system. I have the opinion that the total amount of emitted carbon dioxide must be reduced every year. And the European Union have the same amount of carbon dioxide so they won't make an advance in their environmental protection policy. Which is very sad and bad because this thought is very good but the carrying out is very bad. For example the

german energy supplier are getting by law from year to year environmental friendlier so they can sell their remaining carbondioxide emitting rights to other companies for example to a company in Poland which are producing power out of coal without effective filter systems. So it's not really environmental friendly.



We need to replace our old ways of producing energy.

There are several kinds of new ways of producing energy and their potential on the German energy market.

The greatest potential has Offshore windparks there are still some prototypes in the North Sea.

This is a good way in my opinion because out in the sea you won't see them and on the sea there are always strong wind and we have a nearly never ending supply of space to do so.

The geothermie is also good because the only thing you need is a deep hole and water there are also some power plants around the world but there could be some problems. For example in Basle did some scientist test drillings and in approximately deep of about 1000m they caused an earthquake so we don't know how will react if there so many holes and high pressure from the water in it.