



WE FIGHT FOR THE ENERGY  
TRANSITION AND A SUSTAINABLE,  
ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY AND  
SOCIAL JUST ECONOMY BASED  
ON 100% RENEWABLE ENERGIES.

# EUROSOLAR 19 IRES 2020 Solar Prizes Symposium



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

## **EUROSOLAR CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE SHIFT AWAY FROM COAL, OIL, GAS AND URANIUM**

Both the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the G7 countries have now declared their commitment to seemingly dramatic measures. The IEA calls for an end to new coal, oil and natural gas production: this would indeed mean a dramatic end to current machinations for climate disaster exporters like Australia. And the leading industrialized nations G7 want to move away from the financing of foreign coal-fired power plants. However, both circles are cheating.

The IEA shows in the fine print a completely utopian annual growth rate of up to 24 GW of nuclear power in the period to 2050, and a whopping 7.6 GT of CO<sub>2</sub> capture, injection and utilization (CCUS) planned – in comparison: that would be 22.5% of the world emissions in 2020. The G7 also want to continue to promote coal if CCUS is financed at the same time.

Everybody who reads and knows EUROSOLAR is aware that this is not only technically breathtakingly acrobatic, extremely expensive and to be paid for by the tax payer – it will also be extremely dangerous. In plain language: the G7 states and the IEA are willing to put our health and the future of our children at risk with fossil and nuclear energies – in an irresponsible game of existential roulette.

Only by immediately switching to renewable energies and implementing the other essential measures of our Renewable Earth Decade demands, there is a chance to reach zero emissions by 2030, and to become climate positive by 2040: to absorb more atmospheric emissions than are emitted. Current CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the air we breathe are already much too high to make the calls for 'climate neutrality / zero emissions by 2050' seem remotely adequate to stabilize the planet's climate, currently sliding into a hot-house state.



Prof. Peter Droege, President EUROSOLAR e.V.

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# EVENTS CONFERENCES

25 – 26 May  
IRES WEB SUMMIT 2020



**IRES2020 WEB SUMMIT**  
[WWW.ENERGYSTORAGECONFERENCE.ORG](http://WWW.ENERGYSTORAGECONFERENCE.ORG)

**6 SESSIONS** E.G. THERMAL ENERGY STORAGE,  
ENERGY SYSTEM ANALYSIS, ELECTROCHEMICAL STORAGE  
**45+ SPEAKERS**  
**KEYNOTE** PROF. DR. HANS-MARTIN HENNING  
DIRECTOR FRAUNHOFER ISE

organized by  **EUROSOLAR**  
The European Association  
for Renewable Energy

International  
Renewable  
Energy  
Storage  
Conference

**IRES**

## IRES WEB SUMMIT 2020 – RADICAL SYSTEM CHANGE TO RENEWABLE ENERGIES

For the first time in its history, the traditional International Renewable Energy Storage Conference (IRES) took place online as a web summit. Nearly 50 scientists from all over the world presented their latest research results on the storage of renewable energies.

As a welcoming address, Prof. Peter Droege, President of EUROSOLAR e.V., emphasised the crucial importance of energy storage in the struggle against the unfolding climate catastrophe. „Only the unwavering, powerfully resourced and politically embraced switch to renewable energies combined with negative emissions through land use and production transformations offer hope to stabilise our climate. Storage systems as the core of ubiquitously distributed renewable energy resources have taken on central stage in the fight for a stable climate because it enables a rapid switch to renewable energies – the basis for a sustainable economy and society.“

Prof. Dr. Ingo Stadler, Chairman of the IRES Scientific Committee (ISC), gave reason for hope at the beginning: The Corona crisis shows that political decision makers can take measures of astonishing proportions when they see the effect of their actions. „That’s what we have to remind them in the future – that they are capable of taking action when it counts.“

In his keynote speech, Prof. Dr. Hans-Martin Henning, Director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems (ISE), ISC Chairman from 2021, called for a radical rethink: „The transformation of the energy system towards a complete reduction of greenhouse gas emissions will only succeed if we understand the fundamentally new character of the new system,“ said Henning. „Fossil energy sources must be completely replaced. This means that their inherent storage capacity must also be replaced. Variable, renewable energy will become the main primary energy source in the future, making not only demand but also supply time-dependent.“

In order to manage the change, a complete sector coupling through direct and indirect use of electricity is required. This would require different types of energy storage at different points in the overall system. „This change must be stimulated by suitable market economy framework conditions. Efficient and intelligent control is necessary to ensure that a system is operated and managed safely and reliably.“

Researchers from universities, institutions and companies from more than 15 countries presented their results. On Monday, the subject of energy system analysis was covered, as well as case studies, new ideas and thermochemical storage technologies. On Tuesday, thermal energy storage, latent heat storage and electrochemical storage were on the agenda.



## 19 September German Solar Prize 2020



### GERMAN SOLAR PRIZE AWARDED IN MÜNSTER – CHANGEMAKERS OF THE NEW DECADE

EUROSOLAR and the EnergyAgency.NRW awarded the German Solar Prize to outstanding projects in the field of renewable energies last Saturday at the H7, Münster harbor. The six award winners enjoyed an exciting exchange of ideas – at a distance.

The German Solar Prize 2020 goes to:

#### Cities/municipalities, counties, public utilities

- The utility company Bordesholm GmbH, for the construction of a battery storage system for an independent municipal power supply with renewable energies

#### Solar architecture and urban development:

- heilergeiger architekten und stadtplaner BDA in Kempten for the resource-saving and sustainable restoration of the Karoline Goldhofer daycare center
- The city of Freiburg for the „Rathaus im Stühlinger“, the largest public net zero energy building in Europe

### **Industrial, commercial or agricultural companies/enterprises**

- The Next2Sun GmbH in Merzig (Saar) for the forward-looking symbiosis of renewable power generation and sustainable agriculture.

### **Local or Regional Associations/Communities**

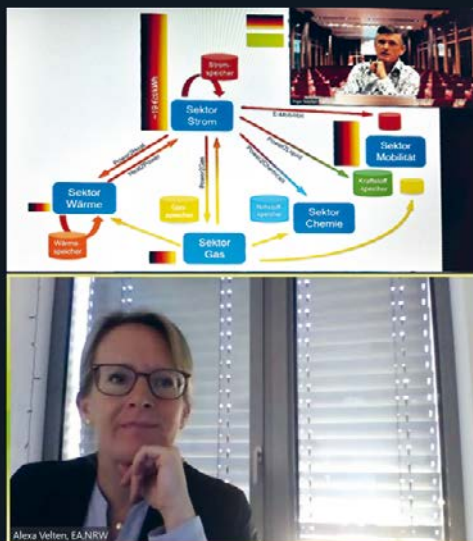
- The Energiegewinner eG in Cologne for enabling simple and fair participation of citizens in regional renewables.

### **Special Award for Personal Commitment**

- Prof. Volker Quaschning, HTW Berlin, for his outstanding achievement in educating people about renewable energies and climate protection.

Dr. Hermann Scheer (†), winner of the Alternative Nobel Prize, created the German and European Solar Prize Awards to honour outstanding projects in renewable energies. Communities, companies, associations or organizations, journalists and private individuals have been receiving the EUROSOLAR e.V. prize for their commitment to renewable energies since 1994.

## 18 November 6. IRES Symposium



### IRES SYMPOSIUM – 250 EXPERTS DISCUSSED ONLINE

The annual IRES symposium in cooperation with EUROSOLAR e.V. and EnergyAgency.NRW creates a stage for the presentation of storage and flexibility options in the German energy market.

While the IRES conference, which is also held annually in spring at the ESE trade fair, focuses more on technical issues, the symposium mentioned here focused more on economic and – closely linked to this – regulatory and political issues.

This year's topics were heat storage and the future of and with hydrogen. The contributions showed strategic paths of action and also obstacles in the implementation of these technologies, which will play a significant role in the energy transition in the future.

This year, the IRES symposium was held online due to the current Covid19 situation.



## 2 December The European Solar Prize 2020



### THE EUROPEAN SOLAR PRIZE 2020 ONLINE – CHANGEMAKERS OF THE RENEWABLE DECADE

The European Solar Prize 2020 was awarded to nine laureates fighting for the energy revolution. Today EUROSOLAR awarded the European Solar Prize to actors from seven different nations. The prize winners in the categories Municipalities, Solar architecture, Industry, Regional associations, Mobility, Media and Education are contributing to the regenerative and decentralised energy supply in Europe with their outstanding projects.

The prize was awarded, for example, to an island community that owns, manages and maintains a stand-alone energy grid, supplying all residents with renewable electricity, to a film director who raises awareness of the ecological and social impact of coal power and to a social business that makes biogas available to remote rural households in Africa.

For EUROSOLAR President and Chairman of the Jury, Prof. Peter Droege, the award-winning projects are perfect examples of the ongoing energy system transformation: „Today’s winners demonstrate how the world can become fully renewable, a generative reality – wonderful ambassadors of the Regenerative Earth Decade EUROSOLAR calls for. In view of the manifest fossil climate threat, all central energy systems, including those based on nuclear resources, must be dismantled and replaced now, in a mobilization of all regenerative resources for a decentralized and renewable supply. For all those who still nurture hope of preserving life on earth, there is no alternative to end the burning of all fossil resources immediately – coal, natural gas and oil. EUROSOLAR’s European Solar Prize winners show how to do it“.

In her video message to the winners, Prof. Claudia Kemfert, renowned energy scientist from Germany and winner of the German Solar Prize, emphasised the significance of renewable energy for climate protection. “Solar energy and wind energy as team players plus battery storage not only secure a decentralised energy system but also create resilience, make us independent from fossil energy wars of any kind and can beat three crises with one stone: The energy crisis, the economic crisis and the climate crisis”, Kemfert stated. “We are, indeed at a time of a change. Corona has

changed everything. But the new start out of the crisis can also be an opportunity. An opportunity for real change.”

Due to the pandemic, the award ceremony took place remotely and was streamed live this year. The unusual circumstances did not affect the enthusiasm of the winners who proudly presented their Solar Prize Cups to the camera. In previous years the award ceremony took place in Vienna, Barcelona and Prague. Since 1994, the prize has been awarded annually to municipalities, municipal companies, associations and organisations, architects, journalists and private individuals in cooperation with the national sections of EUROSOLAR. The award recognises the dedication and inventiveness of regional players and provides new impetus for a regenerative and decentralised energy revolution in Europe.

The European Solar Prize 2020 was awarded to nine laureates:

**Category: Solar architecture and urban planning**

- IFELIX PARTNER Architektur und Design, Switzerland
- For transforming the 350-year-old Engadine building ensemble into a traditional yet modern zero-energy house

**Category: Industrial and commercial companies or farmers**

- Camping Car, S.L., Spain
- For creating the eco-friendly camping bungalow resort La Ballena Alegre, Costa Brava

**Category: Local or regional associations / organisations**

- Lake Constance Foundation, Germany
- For their versatile work and reliable commitment to renewable energies for over 25 years and counting

**Category: Transport and mobility**

- Ærø Municipality, Denmark
- For the electric ferry ELLEN, which demonstrates the great potential of green electric mobility in shipping

**Category: Media**

- Platform against Nuclear Hazards Salzburg (PLAGE), Austria
- For campaign work on the dangers of nuclear energy and the new short video „Quit EURATOM“

**Johanna Jaurich, Germany**

- For raising awareness of the ecological and social impact of coal power with her film „My future without coal – Three people, one story“

**Category: Education and vocational training**

- School Roof Revolution, Netherlands
- For supporting and facilitating the installation of PV systems on all suitable roofs of Dutch schools

**Category: One World Cooperation**

- Social Business (B)Energy, Germany
- For making biogas available to remote rural households through mobile biogas technology

*More information: [www.eurosolar.org](http://www.eurosolar.org)*

**LECTURES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**  
did not take place in 2020 due to the Corona pandemic.

# PRESS RELEASES



21. JANUAR  
**14TH EUROSOLAR CONFERENCE „MUNICIPAL UTILITIES WITH RENEWABLE ENERGIES“  
IN SPEYER, GERMANY**

23. JANUAR  
**Conference program now online: Public Utilities with Renewable Energies 2020**

11. FEBRUAR  
**EUROSOLAR's „RED ALERT „ - Call for the Regenerative Earth Decade**

A historic task holds us all responsible. The virus SARS-CoV-2 has the world on edge. Massive international action is being taken to contain the epidemic and prevent it from infecting a global economy that was booming until recently. But the fossil pandemic is far more dangerous than that.

It must be fought with even greater determination. The fossil virus has been rampant for many decades. It has killed millions upon millions of people and caused immeasurable suffering – both in nature and in our constructed world. The fever of fossil-fuelled global warming continues to gather pace unchecked: Decades of appeasement, too few half-hearted legal regulations and the active braking of containment measures – such as Germany's derailment of its original energy revolution – are now showing their fatal effects.

For all those who still hope to preserve life on earth, there is no alternative to ending the burning of all fossil resources – coal, natural gas and oil – in the short term. In view of the unprecedented, immediate threat, all central systems, especially those based on nuclear resources, must be dismantled and immediately replaced in a mobilization of all renewable resources for a decentralized renewable fuel supply. Previous measures, such as targets for 'climate neutrality' within 20 to 30 years have become completely inadequate.

Much more effective methods are needed, similar to general mobilisation. Can we learn from the Covid-19 mobilisation as a test run for the long overdue, almost criminally neglected regenerative general mobilisation?

These include:

- the introduction of a climate defence budget for the rapid phase-out of fossil fuels and a switch to renewable energies – this should amount to at least 5 to 10 percent of the gross

- national product, 4 to 8 times our current defence budget;
- the targeted restructuring of fossil industries: through technical substitution programmes, the elimination of structural subsidies and, where necessary, structural measures such as financial aid;
- the rapid dismantling of the massively blocking regulations for renewable networks, storage and distribution systems;
- the replacement of jobs in fossil industries by prioritised structural reforms towards renewable industries;
- the redefinition of emission targets. Climate neutrality is not enough, but even so-called zero emission targets alone are no longer sufficient. The global economy needs strategies that are suitable for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere;
- the classification of fossil resources as toxic: their extraction and distribution should be sanctioned after a short transition period

In this sense, EUROSOLAR supports a European climate law – but on the basis of a short-term 100% energy target by 2030, with practical, even closer implementation horizons, for which there is no lack of available political tools such as a convincing energy feed-in law, renewable energy technologies and successful examples: EUROSOLAR has been celebrating them for decades in the context of the Solar Prize awards and has disseminated them in Solar City, Storage and many other conferences. The target of 2050 based on a 'net-zero' emissions calculation is too late, too feeble and too much focused on emissions trading and non-portable and conventional technologies.

## The present and the future need to be managed

Fossil destruction is visible everywhere – from the disappearance of bumblebees from our gardens to the suffocation of our oceans through their heating and CO<sub>2</sub>-induced acidification. Over a billion creatures have died in Australia's climate fires over the turn of the year 2019/2020 alone. For months, fires of unprecedented dimensions raged across the fifth continent: more than 120,000 square kilometres fell victim to the flames. Blazing Australia was only the last link in a chain of fire disasters that are increasingly affecting different parts of the world.

The spreading fires are not only a symptom of the advancing fossil fuel-fired global warming, they also fuel it themselves, as they account for an ever-increasing proportion of the CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions emitted into the Earth's atmosphere. It is not only the CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions that are increasing there: Methane concentrations – mostly still from non-geological fossil sources – are already two and a half times higher than necessary for a stable climate. Even more concealed than the methane surplus is the removal of oxygen from the atmosphere, the deoxygenation.

This massive problem is a direct legacy of fossil energy combustion: currently, fossil energy combustion destroys about 40 gigatons of oxygen per year. This development now becomes even more problematic in face of the dying and burning forests and the destruction of phytoplankton. The oxygen concentration in the atmosphere is decreasing slightly and steadily – and now there are strong signs that this development is accelerating. A solution must be found, and it involves the rapid, albeit belated, ending of fossil pyromania and the strengthening of biogenic oxygen production.

Covid-19 and its impact on the fossil-fuelled global economy also brings to light the problems that fossil dependence has brought us: Reduced economic output leads to less air pollution. Cleaner air means more solar radiation, which in the short term can lead to a possible local doubling of the post-industrial temperature increase of at least 1.3 degrees Celsius on average – overland in Europe it is already twice as high today. This illustrates the elementary importance of combining the conversion of energy systems with measures that strongly reduce CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions in the soil and construction industries.

In Germany and elsewhere, there has long been talk of climate adaptation. But how do you adapt to your own destruction? The fossil-fuelled behaviour of our economy has created conditions in which everything we know threatens to perish. According to the study „Lifting Europe's

Dark Cloud" by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and other organisations, in 2016 some 23,000 people lost their lives prematurely due to air pollution from coal-fired power generation. Positive, regenerative actions are effective and demonstrably concrete: Following the entry into force of the EU directive on industrial emissions, almost 12,000 premature deaths were avoided in 2016.

## Mobilisation for climate stability

All these facts allow only one conclusion: if we do not want to fail in the protection of all living beings for whom we are responsible, and but want to ensure the survival of our own species, unprecedented, never-before imagined efforts are necessary, which are tantamount to rapid mobilization against the existential threat. Concrete steps through a rapidly conceived emergency mobilisation and the financing of renewable energies, an end to fossil subsidies, structural changes in the energy sector and targeted social transformations towards a regenerative world cannot be postponed.

Support EUROSOLARs RED ALERT! Call for an unprecedented and urgently needed Renewable Decade, in which the complete supply of renewable energies is the minimum requirement. It will make our economy more resilient and our society more sustainable. With citizen-oriented publications, legal and institutional innovations, policy instruments and events, EUROSOLAR has been committed to the rapid transition into the solar age since 1988.

Your donation of 10, 20, 50, 100 or more Euros will help us to make 2020 the beginning of the Decade of Regeneration, together with our many active partners. You can also support our work long term and become a member, starting from as little as 25 Euros per year.

*Prof. Peter Droege, President EUROSOLAR e.V.,  
European Association for Renewable Energies, March 2020*

*The Call for the Decade of Regeneration builds on EUROSOLAR's founder, history, mission and statutes were developed and adopted at the February meeting of the Association's Board of Directors at the European level.*

27. FEBRUARY

**ENERGY HEROES OF THE NEW DECADE: APPLICATION PHASE FOR GERMAN AND EUROPEAN SOLAR PRIZE 2020 LAUNCHED.**

16. MARCH

**14TH EUROSOLAR CONFERENCE „PUBLIC UTILITIES WITH RENEWABLE ENERGIES“ POSTPONED**

29. APRIL

**EMERGING FROM THE CORONA CRISIS WITH RENEWABLES: APPEAL TO POLITICAL DECISION MAKERS**

Bonn, Peter Droege, President of EUROSOLAR, Axel Berg, Chairman of the German section, and Claus P. Baumeister, EUROSOLAR Curator, jointly declare

The capacity for rapid and comprehensive financial, economic and social measures, newly discovered in the Corona crisis, should not lead to a relaunch of the old polluting industries. Instead, it must be used to fight the escalating climate catastrophe. It is disproportionately more dangerous for our health and the economy, and has been raging for much longer.

Now is the time to use the current willingness of the public sector – EU, federal, state and local authorities – to finance a rapid implementation of the energy transition. What we want is a pea-



ceful and peace-building mobilisation of all forces. The Regenerative Corona Stimulus must be used today – and not just after the crisis. There will be no social costs if, from now on, less lethal and wasteful industries are promoted, but instead a targeted, radically decarbonised energy market framework is created and renewable technologies are released. Free from the current bureaucratic hurdles, renewable activities, employment and new industries will develop as if by magic.

Every day, the media are full of new case numbers and narratives on the corona crisis, its medical, social and economic effects and individual fates. The much more explosive and threatening climate destabilisation and the existential importance of an immediate energy transition as the essential basis of all ecological measures – from agriculture to transport – are completely forgotten.

The horror that Covid-19 causes in many people is not new for all those who are conscious the horrors of global warming. As frightening as the new virus is, the fossil energy dependency and the droughts, fires, heat waves and floods caused by it and by misuse of land have already claimed many more lives than Corona and have thus a far higher mortality rate than the virus ever could. EUROSOLAR is a central part of the broad social movement towards a regenerative culture. Our contribution lies in the basic demand to immediately implement a sustainable infrastructure for our economy, society and future, today, together. Hence this call.

The well-known principles of a decentralized and resilient energy system transformation towards a 100 percent renewable energy supply can, through the wise use of the necessary Covid-19 stimulus packages, both serve a stabilizing purpose in the short term and – through the immediate reconstruction of our energy and basic supply infrastructure – ensure the survival of the people on the planet in the long term. In this way, all existing ecological and climate-stabilizing goals can also be achieved.

Across Europe, the energy sector is responsible for 75 percent of all CO2 emissions. The total reconstruction is decades overdue. The „Green Deal“ envisaged at European level, with its long-term objectives and vague measures, is completely inadequate from the point of view of climate and energy policy. The „Green Recovery Plan“ of the Corporate Leaders Group of 180 companies demands that every stimulus plan be a „Green Deal stimulus“. Organisations from the IEA to IRENA – once initiated by EUROSOLAR – refer to post-corona plans until 2050, but this is too far away to be taken seriously as a goal. The existential threat to the continued operation of nuclear reactors – often wrongly argued in the interest of climate protection and hidden in the ‚Green Deal‘ – also disappears behind the corona reports: Thus the forest fire around Chernobyl, which continues to rage after weeks, expresses everything that must change in our energy and environmental policy.

Renewable energies mean

- a) Increasing resilience through decentralisation and reducing Germany's and Europe's import dependency through energy autonomy
- b) Contribution to peace because resource conflicts are reduced. Potentially every country can become self-sufficient through renewable energies
- c) The basic condition for climate stabilisation and the mitigation of global warming

Now, in the Corona period, we must seize the opportunity to act, set goals and take concrete steps. These priorities can be implemented in line with market conditions in a framework free of fossil and nuclear subsidies and without subsidies, and at no cost. They are part of an accelerated infrastructure programme in which public action plays a crucial role. Investments in renewable energies are a self-sustaining economic stimulus package if the market blockades and obstacles to renewable energies are removed by a new energy market regulation\*. Instead of paying for imported oil, gas and coal, technologies can be developed at home, projects can be supervised, plants can be manufactured and installed by craftsmen. Investments then replace imports. If the blockade of renewable energies in Germany and the EU is lifted, a large number of workers threatened by unemployment can be absorbed without burdening the national budget.



The introduction of this new energy market organisation for economic stimulus can be further increased and accelerated through targeted corona/climate emergency programs. Concrete, feasible and quickly implementable measures for Germany:

### **1 End of the PV blockade**

The 52 GW cap must be removed immediately and renewable energies must be massively expanded. In addition, a special ‚Corona‘-1-million-roof-and facade program with investment support of 200-300 €/kWp with a total volume of one billion euros can be launched. Both can be implemented independently of the EEG and combined with local storage facilities.

### **2 End of the storage blockade through a new energy market regulation system PLUS Corona-Subsidy of about 3 x 300 €/kWh**

The state, manufacturers and network operators each contribute 300 euros. The investment subsidy is compensated with free grid feed-in of excess earnings.

### **3 Unleashing wind power through qualitative rules**

With sensible regulations such as ‚no cast shadows on buildings‘ and maximum permissible noise pollution instead of rigid distance rules, electronic sensory bird protection, citizen participation and neighbourhood bonuses as well as calculable basic remuneration beyond the volatile electricity exchange prices, the necessary acceptance for wind power can be gained and its necessary expansion implemented. No additional costs are incurred by the federal and state governments.

### **4 Power2Gas by electrolysis of PV overcapacities and fuel cell electricity generation as decentralized long-term storage**

Already, this is a decade overdue. Instead of H2 technology, battery technologies for passenger cars should be promoted. They have a much higher efficiency and soon also the corresponding capacities/kg for longer ranges – long before the rudimentary H2 filling station network can be expanded for a lot of money, even halfway to practical use. In addition, large-scale renewable Power2X development and its use must be promoted, as must the production of hydrogen with surplus electricity from renewable energy plants in natural gas-compatible quality. Additional support for research and development in the amount of one billion euros would be a sensible investment in the future

### **5 Exploiting energy efficiency potentials in buildings**

In the building sector, the renewal rate must be tripled. Incorrect promotion of the insufficient EnEV-KfW standards should be stopped. There is an urgent need for an adequate passive house standard and the prohibition of new fossil heating systems in order to drastically reduce superfluous heating and increasingly also cooling performance in buildings. Instead, all consumption must ultimately be covered monovalently with renewable electricity. This should be supported by energy-oriented development plans (architecture, building orientation etc.). No costs are incurred for the state as a result, because fewer passive houses could be supported with higher sums of the cancelled EnEV-KfW subsidies.

### **6 Transport transition with public financing of public transport, etc.**

This includes free local transport services and the expansion of the cycling infrastructure. Environmentally harmful car scrapping schemes must be abolished and misguided subsidies for hybrids should be redirected to small electric vehicles. Cities that are now accustomed to greatly reduced car traffic as a result of the corona measures can now also take the long-term approach of establishing car-free and low-carriageway zones over large areas and rededicating lanes to public areas, cooling green zones and cycle paths. This measure can also be made cost-neutral by redirecting nonsensical subsidies for diesel, hybrids and commuter allowances.

### **7 Important not only in corona times: Common sense instead of unnecessary technology in „digitization“**

Example: The law for the digitalization of the energy transition forces Smart Metering at the grid level, which is questionable in terms of data protection and unnecessarily complex. At the same time, the stimulation of local smart metering and load management with the help of automated buildings is much more effective and simple: mature technical solutions have been available for 20 years.

There is a billion-dollar savings potential to be exploited in this area: After all, 40 million new meters from network operators, which have to be paid for by the metering point operators, could be eliminated. Instead, cost-effective local solutions could be used.

In general, the gigantic energy requirements of oversized IT and communication systems must be reduced urgently:

This could be a sensible, corona-compatible design for „digitization“ – i.e. smart networking and Internet applications – to avoid counterproductive effects that (over)compensate for the efficiency gains of the hardware. Because remember: A lot of bandwidth and high resolution is only available at the price of oversized computing power. Therefore, it is important to hold fewer video conferences instead of telephone conferences, and not to use more and more streaming instead of linear broadcast TV as long as a full supply of renewable energies is not yet within reach.

The App-fired Sharing Economy has so far clearly missed the announced positive effects. According to current studies, car sharing and over-the-top systems do not lead to fewer, but rather to more cars and movement on the roads.

\*Further reading

Without accelerated energy system transformation, serious climate protection is impossible  
EUROSOLAR Memorandum on the White Paper „An electricity market for energy system transformation. New Energy Market Organization (NEMO) for the decentralized energy turnaround

With thanks to EUROSOLAR Vice President Dr. Fabio Longo for his contribution and comments.

5. MAY

**THE SOLAR PRIZE AWARDS 2020 – APPLY NOW!**

18. MAY

**EUROSOLAR CALL: OUR FUTURE NEEDS RENEWABLE ENERGIES AND NOT A NUCLEAR ARMS RACE**

In its meeting on 14 May 2020, the EUROSOLAR International Board unanimously issued the following statement: Almost two trillion US dollars are spent on armaments worldwide every year. The current crisis demonstrates more urgently than ever that our financial resources are needed elsewhere: To build resilient global and local economies founded on 100 % renewable energy. Instead of pursuing anachronistic Cold War policies such as „nuclear sharing“, we need to focus on what really matters. The corona pandemic is a powerful reminder of how sensitive our economic system is to disruptions. It challenges our deeply ingrained faith in an economy based on boundless consumerism – and instead offers a historic opportunity to embrace a new era. All available resources must now be mobilized to combat the fossil pandemic and halt the climate crisis. EUROSOLAR therefore demands that defence budgets be rededicated and used for the long overdue and peace-building energetic restructuring of Germany and Europe.

In the German Parliament, the country's Minister of Defence Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer argued for a multi-billion-euro plan to replace Germany's fleet of outdated Tornado fighter jets. Last month she made a case to the defence committee for procuring up to 93 Eurofighters and 45 F-18 fighters from the US manufacturer Boeing in the near future. The head of the social democratic parliamentary group, Rolf Mützenich, objected and called for a debate on how to create a peaceful international order without nuclear weapons. In an interview, he argued for the withdrawal of American nuclear weapons from Germany and for Germany to withdraw from NATO's nuclear sharing. Mützenich justified his demand above all with mistrust of the US government under Trump. Due to changes in their nuclear strategy, the „use of these weapons in Europe has become much more likely again“. Therefore, nuclear weapons on German territory threaten our security. We demand that we go one step further and use that budget for a rapid restructuring of our energy systems to fight the climate crisis and boost the economy – a „climate defence budget“. Only

a decentralised energy supply with 100% renewable energy from wind, sun, water, biomass and geothermal energy sources can create the basis for achieving climate stability and ending our dependence on fossil fuels and nuclear power. Decentralized, renewable resources combined with storage technologies are the basis for resilient economies and a world in which conflicts and wars can be replaced by peace and cooperation.

27. MAY

IRES WEB SUMMIT 2020 Radical system change to renewable energies

29. MAY

**APPLICATION PHASE FOR THE GERMAN SOLAR PRIZE 2020 EXTENDED UNTIL JUNE 14**

15. JUNE

**DESIGNING CORONOMICS – FOR A REAL ENERGY TRANSITION!**

Since the financial crisis of 2008, the leading industrialised countries have increasingly closed themselves off and protected their own industries and agriculture. The rules of the World Trade Organization are increasingly being ignored. Bilateral trade agreements are on the rise. Trade is becoming increasingly unfree. Under US President Trump, the policy of isolation has been accelerated. In 2020, Corona comes and deals another blow to the world economy: the vulnerability of our global system is becoming more and more obvious.

The so-called Uncertainty Index, which researchers at Stanford University have developed, states that Corona has increased uncertainty among the population by 300 percent. According to the May 2020 survey of the German news magazine "Der Spiegel", less than 40 percent of those surveyed see globalization as an opportunity; almost 60 percent see it as a risk. In 2017 the reverse was true.

So the time is right for a consistent energy turnaround towards decentralized self-sufficiency in renewable energies: everyone is considering how to increase their resilience in times of crisis. Self-sufficient spaces will be created that can also take a few weeks off; this trend is foreseeable. More regional production and less just-in-time dependencies are the answers to global risks. A missed opportunity

The German government's 130 billion-euro economic stimulus package is not sustainable. There are some lukewarm green blobs, but without the miserable merit-order effect and the „special equalisation scheme“, which spares 2,000 energy-intensive companies, there would be no high Renewable Energies Act levy (EEG-Umlage) at all. Nine billion are to flow into a centrally planned hydrogen strategy. Hydrogen as an energy storage medium is versatile and the technologies could become a German export hit. Hydrogen is ecological if it is produced from surplus electricity, i.e. if more than 100 percent of other energy consumption is already produced from renewable sources. We are still a long way from achieving this. Brown hydrogen from natural gas is currently 95 percent locally produced. For on-site electricity, photovoltaics and wind power are best and cheapest. Of course, locally produced green hydrogen from renewable energies would be decentralized. Expensive offshore wind power in particular and the countries of North Africa are therefore envisaged as production locations where there are no customers for the heat produced during the conversion process. In Germany, on the other hand, the grand coalition wants to invest in the construction of LNG (liquefied natural gas) plants to import American fracking gas, the most climate-damaging fuel of all.

Considering the high coal subsidies in the 1970s were justified by the need to get rid of oil import dependency, it is surprising that the future is not seen in domestic energy production on the sufficiently available space on roofs and facades in the country, but that Germany relies on the reliability of foreign partners. There is no talk of an initiative for decentralised battery storage or even of forests and moors as CO<sub>2</sub> storage facilities.

The economic stimulus package will also help to boost the already unsustainable economy. The scrapping premium comes with 2.2 billion euros. At least it is no longer to be paid for pure combustion engines, but as a pure exchange project it is a clear commitment to even more vehicles on the road. There are no plans to increase the number of cyclists and pedestrians on the roads. German car manufacturers have lied and cheated in organized crime in accordance with the Federal Motor Transport Authority. Now they are being helped again. The German Environmental Aid assumes that in 2025, every second new car will be an SUV with a small alibi electric engine. Therefore, the conservatives in Germany also want to cancel the CO2 fleet limits that have already been decided.

## Now is the time for conversion

A subsidy for electric cars should at least be linked to investments by car manufacturers in renewable energy plants on the scale of the energy balance of the electric cars produced and in the construction of their own electricity storage facilities. This would turn the car companies into battery and electricity producers. The same applies to the promised two billion passenger car research grants, the 1.2 billion euros for the conversion of truck engines, the billions for shipping and air traffic, and the nine billion without environmental requirements to Lufthansa. It is not sustainable to build more and more cars, ships and aircraft. 20 billion euros are being spent on a VAT reduction according to the watering can principle. There are no incentives for less environmental consumption, closed loop recycling management, recycling or ecological agriculture.

## Central bank: Climate bailout as a rescue operation

Extraordinary situations require extraordinary measures: In 2008, the German government created a rescue package for banks that amounted to almost 500 billion – the most expensive law in German history. From 2010, the financial crisis slid into the euro crisis. When the global financial system was on the brink of the abyss, central banks prevented a total crash. Mario Draghi, former president of the European Central Bank (ECB) pulled out the monetary policy bazooka in 2012 and assured that he would do everything necessary – whatever it takes to preserve the euro with unlimited government bond purchases. Between 2015 and 2018, the European Central Bank drew 2,600 billion euros, a quarter of Europe's total economic output, from nothing to buy up stranded securities or government bonds under quantitative easing. The environment did not benefit. In 2020, Corona will be the next Black Swan. And once again the ECB will use the PEPP (Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme) to create 1,400 billion to buy up broken bonds. And the environment? No chance again!

With the inevitable energy transition approaching, the raw material reserves already on the balance sheets of energy companies and the entire fossil infrastructure such as power plants and refineries will become virtually worthless. As a consequence, the prices of the shares of fossil energy companies will collapse accordingly. But it could be even more severe: If global warming cannot be halted by a strongly accelerated conversion from fossil to renewable energy sources, climate-related damage such as forest fires, flood damage, crop failures and heat waves can be expected to explode. Some of these losses are covered by insurers who are overburdened by this. Unpredictable credit defaults at the banks are another factor. Here, too, massive instability on the financial markets threatens.

Not all costs can be left to future generations. The global economy is facing an enormous global threat. In the financial crises, as in the case of Corona, we have seen how quickly the state is able to take consistent action out of its duty of care for its citizens. A climate bail-out would enable energy companies to convert their de facto lost fossil assets into new, sustainable renewable energy assets. A large-scale bail-out could break the resistance of the corporations and thus also of the trade unions and politicians against a rapid energy transition and instead trigger a rapid momentum towards a rapid energy turnaround. We would have a reversal of the incentive system: While energy and automobile companies today have a strong interest in keeping their fossil business models running as long as possible, a climate bail-out would make it attractive for them to invest in the development of renewable energies as quickly as possible.

1. SEPTEMBER

## **EUROSOLAR PROPOSES SOLUTION FOR POST-EEG PLANTS**

Bonn, At the end of this year, the first photovoltaic plants with fixed feed-in tariffs will cease to be subsidised under the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG). So far, no legal follow-up regulation is in sight. On the other hand, there are proposals from various quarters for the economic continued operation of the plants – and EUROSOLAR is positioning itself.

EUROSOLAR provides an overview of the approaches taken by various institutions and makes its own – targeted and practicable – proposal for the continued use of post-EEG plants. The European energy transition organisation calls for supplementary legislation in the EEG that allows the old plants to continue to be operated on the public grid and feed in electricity as needed. The plant operators do not receive any remuneration for this. The grid operators should be allowed a little free green electricity. However, in order to make unremunerated feed-in, which initially sounds like a bad deal for plant operators, attractive, framework conditions are needed:

1. Dispensing with a meter: this saves the plant operator up to 100 euros a year for additional metering point operation with a SmartMeter. The 20-year-old feed-in meter for billing the EEG compensation is no longer needed because excess electricity is fed in for free.

2. The inverters of the PV systems must be reconnected to the in-house grid for the purpose of own electricity use. The inverter then hangs behind the consumption meter, which continues to function as before with a backstop, without taking the fed-in electricity into account.

In order to further relieve the distribution grid, the installation of storage systems should also be encouraged with subsidies. Battery storage, heat pumps, heating rods that heat heating water, infrared heaters or charging stations for e-cars and e-bikes are among these. Through optimisation measures with regard to the technical equipment and electricity consumption of the prosumers, a self-power utilisation of more than 95 percent can be achieved.

Thinking even further, plants that still benefit from the EEG feed-in tariff for a few more years could also be released from the levy financing. The prerequisite would be that they switch to self-consumption and in return receive a storage subsidy that corresponds to the respective remaining term of the EEG subsidy. This would reduce electricity costs for all consumers, favour grid stabilisation and make the cost-intensive expansion of the distribution grids superfluous.

19. SEPTEMBER

## **GERMAN SOLAR PRIZE AWARD 2020 - CHANGEMAKERS OF THE NEW DECADE**

14. OCTOBER

## **A DECADE ON – THE FIGHT FOR THE REGENERATIVE EARTH DECADE BEGINS**

A decade has passed since EUROSOLAR founder Dr. Hermann Scheer died on 14 October 2010. But his presence can still be felt by his many comrades, his family and friends and of course, in his and our association EUROSOLAR.

With his courageous vision, his uncompromising commitment to the energy transition – the Energiewende – and his powers of persuasion, he changed politics.

„Many who were ahead of their time had to wait for it in very uncomfortable accommodations,“ wrote Hermann Scheer’s favorite writer Stanislaw Lec. This was true of Scheer, who has been committed to renewable energies since the early eighties. Despite enormous progress, the accommodations have become even more uncomfortable since then. EUROSOLAR is struggling in a time that is experiencing targeted setbacks despite massive breakthroughs for a renewable economy. In a time of great climate crisis the demand „100 % renewable now“ has become existential.

Hermann Scheer's perspective was far-reaching: „The comprehensive mobilization of renewable energies is at the centre of new economic policy, agricultural policy, social policy and environmental policy – and above all peace and development policy,“ he once wrote in the magazine *Solarzeitalter*. Today we have gained an additional insight: The emission of greenhouse gases has been so great in recent decades that a massive surplus has formed in the atmosphere which must be reduced. Therefore, a completely renewable energy supply is essential, but no longer sufficient.

This maxim sets the course for the Regenerative Decade, which EUROSOLAR's Board proclaimed in its first meeting in 2020 – after a decade of constant appeals and proposals, many of which have faded away all too lightly. But now they are echoed in the calls of young people from the Fridays for Future and the Extinction Rebellion movement and many other organizations ranging from fossil divestment foundations to the Defense of Indigenous Peoples' Rights.

### Hermann Scheer called for the ultimate acceleration of the energy revolution.

Today we know: This is not the ultimate goal. It is the basic prerequisite for action that guarantees a stable and viable climate on earth. „Thus the RED Alert is a call for an unprecedented and urgently needed Regenerative Decade, in which the complete supply of renewable energies is the minimum requirement. It will make our world more resilient and socially just in the long term – in a way that encourages and secures the future“, explains EUROSOLAR President Prof. Peter Droege.

„Thirty years ago, Hermann Scheer wrote a book on the Solar Strategy, in which he explains why the fossil-nuclear waste economy must be replaced by a global solar economy. At the time he was ridiculed. Today the world is changing. I would have loved Hermann, but also all of us, to see him, at the age of 80 or 90, experience a world that has become fairer, more peaceful and more sustainable – through renewable energies“, says Dr. Axel Berg, Chairman of EUROSOLAR Germany and a long-time companion of Scheer.

The father of the German Renewable Energy Act and initiator of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was President of EUROSOLAR, the European Association for Renewable Energy until his death. He received several awards for his commitment: in 1998 he received the World Solar Prize, in 1999 the so called „Alternative Nobel Prize“ – the „Right Livelihood Award“. The American Time Magazine honoured him in 2002 with the title „Hero for the Green Century“. Regenerative Decade – Regenerative Earth Decade – in the sense of Hermann Scheer:

In line with EUROSOLAR's Europe-wide board decision to launch a comprehensive campaign of the Regenerative Decade, EUROSOLAR President Peter Droege calls for mobilization in six ways – the six themes of the Regenerative Decade, which have already been outlined by Scheer. These represent our overarching program.

The comprehensive mobilization of renewable energies as the centre of new economic policy

The comprehensive mobilization of renewable energies as the centre of new agricultural policy

The comprehensive mobilization of renewable energies as the centre of new social policy

The comprehensive mobilization of renewable energies as the centre of new environmental policy

The comprehensive mobilization of renewable energies as the centre of new peace policy and

The comprehensive mobilization of renewable energies as the centre of new development policy

We will systematically address these issues, with renewed vigour, and in union with all our Sections, our members, the WCRE and many organizations that strive for a regenerative world.

All press releases in German can be found in full on the website [www.eurosolar.de](http://www.eurosolar.de) under the category Texts, Media/Press Releases



20. OCTOBER

### **OPEN LETTER ON EEG AMENDMENT: EUROSOLAR CALLS FOR RENEWABLES OFFENSIVE**

In an open letter, EUROSOLAR e.V. call on the members of the German government (Bundestag and Bundesrat) to push for a climate-friendly and socially just EEG amendment 2021

In the coming weeks of deliberations for a Renewable Energy Sources Act 2021 (EEG 2021), Parliament has the chance to break down blockades against renewables and give the energy transition a new boost: For a renewables offensive that tackles climate protection effectively and in a socially acceptable way. An offensive that creates more jobs than are lost with coal and nuclear. And one that guarantees energy security through domestic renewables. To this end, the Bundestag and Bundesrat already abolished the 52-GW solar cap in the summer. Now the foresight of the deputies is once again required to remove blockades from Altmaier's draft law against the decentralized energy transition and to set impulses for the acceleration of low-cost solar energy. Otherwise, the MPs' efforts to abolish the solar cap will have been in vain. After the 2016 EEG amendment stalled onshore wind energy, the current EEG amendment targets the tenderly growing seedling of decentralized solar energy for stalling and obstruction.

Parliament can once again lead the way – as it did with the initiative for the Electricity Feed Act 30 years ago and for the EEG 20 years ago. Back then, the EEG made history as the parliamentary law of the reunited Germany for climate protection and energy security. EUROSOLAR now appeals to the people's representatives to enable the people's energy instead of putting the brakes on it. To this end, we are presenting a comprehensive concept for the EEG amendment that puts renewables at the forefront and enables a solar offensive. The annual solar expansion must be at least 10 gigawatts. Photovoltaics must become the standard on buildings. The choking, non-breathing solar cap must be abolished or fundamentally revised so that photovoltaics can continue to operate at a sufficient level in the future. Barriers to PV self-sufficiency must be removed and incentives for storage improved so that energy demand can be generated where it is needed. This minimizes an oversized, expensive expansion of public power grids and creates jobs. In this way, Germany can still create a compatible transformation for climate protection.

9. NOVEMBER

### **REGENERATIVE EARTH DECADE: 100% RENEWABLES ARE ONLY THE BEGINNING**

**A new era in the history of humanity has now begun, with a new phase in the fossil-fuelled transformation of the Arctic.**

At the end of October the Russian-Swedish group of scientists on the research vessel R/V Akademik Keldysh reported unprecedented amounts of methane found rising in the Laptev Sea to depths of 350 meters along a 150-kilometer-long and 10-kilometer-wide strip of the continental slope 600 kilometers from the East Siberian coast. This is further evidence that the process may have begun to wake up some or all of the 1400 gigatons of carbon still bound in methane hydrates on the sea floor. This, combined with the permafrost melt means the rising risk of an abrupt climate change. This mechanism has long been known. Yet almost nothing has been done to stop it. Fossil energy consumption continues to rise, renewables are being slowed down.

Now it is time to unleash the Regenerative Age. This is a time for highest but constructive alarm. Aimless panic is not called for, but a completely unprecedented readiness for a rising risk of large and rapid changes, and concomitant immediate emergency measures to avoid the worst. For all those who still nurture hope of preserving life on earth, there is no alternative to end the burning of all fossil resources immediately – coal, natural gas and oil. In view of the unprecedented, clear and immediate threat, all central energy systems, including those based on nuclear resources, must be dismantled and replaced now, in a mobilization of all regenerative resources for a decentralized and fully renewable supply. Earlier but still dominant concepts, such as targets for – further emitting and polluting – 'climate neutrality' are inadequate and over periods of 20 to 30 years are far too long in view of current climate dynamics. Not only have CO2 concentrations

already risen to a 150% excess level, from 280 to over 415 ppm: methane concentrations are already three times higher than climate stability depended on over the past megayear, having risen from 600 to 1900 ppb. Temperature increase targets should be zero above preindustrial times. Even less known than the large and rising methane surpluses is the loss of oxygen from the atmosphere and oceans due to fossil fuel combustion and heating, respectively, in a process known as deoxygenation.

Much more powerful methods are needed than those currently used in Germany, Europe and worldwide at cabinet and parliamentary levels: one that is tantamount to a general mobilization.

**This includes the requirements and concepts of this 10-point plan:**

1. The introduction of a climate defense budget for the rapid phase-out of fossil fuels and a switch to renewable energies – this may account for at least five to ten percent of the gross national product, this would be four to eight times the current defense budget of the German Federal Republic.
2. The introduction of climate emergency diplomacy, that of ending wars and acts of war, in the common interest in the fight for survival – against the common enemy of global warming. This includes a European and worldwide climate migration management plan: billions of fellow human beings will be forced to migrate very soon.
3. The targeted restructuring of fossil industries: through technical substitution programs, the elimination of structural subsidies and, where necessary, structural measures such as transformation assistance as well as the immediate dismantling of the massive regulatory blocking for renewable grids, storage and distribution systems – supported by the New Energy Market Order.
4. The replacement of jobs in the fossil industries by prioritized structural reforms towards renewable industries.
5. The redefinition of emission targets. Climate neutrality is not enough, but even so-called zero emission targets relative to 1990 alone are insufficient – the baseline year must be before the industrial age. The global economy needs strategies that are suitable for reducing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere.
6. The classification of fossil resources as toxic: their extraction and distribution should become prohibited or at least highly taxed after a short transition period.
7. The rapid development and regeneration of healthy, climate-active agricultural soils, wetlands and forests.
8. The transformation of the construction industry and all industries and manufactories into carbon-sequestration processes. This demands the large-scale conversion of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> into wood, carbon fibers and other solid carbon products.
9. Taking full advantage of unprecedented productivity and innovation gains to massively expand high-quality employment opportunities for all citizens, existing and new migrants.
10. A new financing mechanism is needed that rewards long-term investments such as defossilization, agricultural reform and afforestation with higher returns than short-term ones. This calls for 'Future Banks' that create special currencies with negative interest rates, thus incentivizing spending tied to sustainable products and services.

EUROSOLAR demands a focusing and tightening of the European Green Deal, away from mere climate neutrality to 100% renewable energies, carbon sequestering agriculture, reforestation with drought-resistant forests and the repurposing of the European Circular Economy guidelines into economy-wide carbon sequestration laws. The goal must be a climate-positive, emissions-negative Europe, based on a short-term 100% energy target realised by 2030, with practical, ever

closer implementation horizons. For this there is no lack of available political tools, such as a bold new energy feed-in law, renewable energy technologies and many other successful examples: EUROSOLAR has been celebrating them for decades in its Solar Prize ceremonies and disseminating them in Solar City, Storage and many other conferences. The target of 2050 based on a 'net-zero' emissions calculation is too late, too little, and too much based on emissions trading as well as unsustainable and conventional technologies.

We need you to help us advance this agenda boldly.

Please support EUROSOLARs ! RED ALERT ! Call for an unprecedented and urgently needed Renewable Decade, in which the complete supply of renewable energy is the minimum requirement. It will make our economy more resilient and socially acceptable in a sustainable way – in a courageous manner. With publications focused on civic, legal and institutional innovations, policy instruments and events, EUROSOLAR has been working since 1988 for the rapid turnaround into the ecological Solar Age.

Your donation of 10, 20, 50, 100 or more Euros helps us in a very concrete way to make 2020 the year of the beginning of the decade of regeneration, together with our many active partners. Please support our work in a more sustained manner with a membership from as little as 25 euros per year for young people, and 65 for adults.

The Call for the Decade of Regeneration builds on EUROSOLAR's founder, history, mission, and statutes, which were developed and adopted at the 2020 February meeting of the Association's Board of Directors at the European level.

*Professor Peter Droege, President, EUROSOLAR*

2 DECEMBER

**THE EUROPEAN SOLAR PRIZE 2020: CHANGEMAKERS OF THE RENEWABLE DECADE**

All press releases in German can be found on the website [www.eurosolar.de](http://www.eurosolar.de) in the category Texts, Media/Press Releases

# PUBLIC RELATIONS



## SOLAR AGE

### 1/2020

In the first Solar Age 2020, EUROSOLAR President Peter Droege calls for the Decade of Regeneration. In his call for climate stabilization with 100% renewables, he draws parallels between fighting the climate crisis and the corona virus. In an interview, Dr. Dörte Fouquet, lawyer and member of the strategic and scientific advisory board of the Institute for Climate Protection, Energy and Mobility, comments on the European Green Deal. Other key topics in the issue include the 20th anniversary of the EEG, tenant electricity and digitization. Franz Alt calls Siemens' involvement in coal projects „disgraceful.“

### 2/2020

The second Solar Age 2020 focused on the impact of the Corona pandemic. EUROSOLAR's appeal to political decision makers „Emerging from the Corona crisis with renewables“ and “Our future needs renewable energies and not a nuclear arms race“ suggest solutions to combat the climate crisis and present economic perspectives for a time after the pandemic. Nina Scheer comments on the EEG amendment 2021. Carbon reduction strategies are discussed, while Ulf Bossel takes a critical look at CCS technology.

## EUROSOLAR TIMES

### Summer 2020

EUROSOLAR TIMES is EUROSOLAR's new English-language publication. It is intended to appeal to a more international audience. In the first issue, Dr. Josep Puig i Boix, chairman of the Spanish and Catalan sections of EUROSOLAR, explains why humanity needs to treat the planet better. It includes scientific contributions by Prof. Dr. Hans-Martin Henning and Dr. Diana Böttger on the transformation of the energy system as well as an opinion piece by Dr. Axel Berg on how the economic stimulus payments could benefit the transformation of electricity, heating and mobility.



## NEWSLETTER

The EUROSOLAR Newsletter is published monthly in German and English. Almost 7,000 German and 5,660 international interested parties receive up-to-date information on EUROSOLAR events and activities as well as an overview of the latest developments in energy policy. Both the English and German editions aim to provide an international perspective on what is happening in renewables.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

The various social media platforms are gaining ever more importance and are an essential tool for communication and networking. This allows EUROSOLAR to participate in daily energy policy debates and draw attention to its work.

### Twitter

EUROSOLAR is represented with a German-language account on the message service Twitter. This channel now reaches over 2,700 followers. The English-language account also gained new followers and can now reach over 480 people. The activities on Twitter are linked to those of the board members and European EUROSOLAR sections active there..

### Facebook

Facebook is one of the most important platforms through which a large number of interested people can be addressed. Around 650 people have subscribed to the EUROSOLAR page. Instagram is also becoming increasingly popular. The EUROSOLAR Instagram account was launched in December 2020 and has 200 followers so far.

### XING & LinkedIn

The two networks are used in particular for networking within the professional world and for addressing interested professionals in renewable energies and the environment. Xing is an established platform in Germany, but the activity of many members is declining. It is now mainly used as an "address book". The EUROSOLAR group on Xing has 25 members. LinkedIn is becoming an international and professional counterpart to Facebook. EUROSOLAR's German page now has around 150 followers, while the English page has 100. There is further potential here, which should be used in the future to address people who do not use Facebook or Twitter.

# ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES



## BOARD MEETING ON FEBRUARY 4

The first board meeting of the German section in 2020 focused on future campaigns and how EUROSOLAR can make its position heard in current energy debates. Other key topics were the executive board, the future of the solar age and the organization and development of further EUROSOLAR conferences.

## BOARD MEETING ON APRIL 7

It was discussed how climate protection can remain in the public discourse despite the Corona pandemic and which opportunities might arise from the situation. The pandemic also affected the EUROSOLAR conferences, which had to be cancelled, postponed or take place online.

## BOARD MEETING ON JUNE 4

The Corona pandemic regarding political developments and conferences is discussed. Economic stimulus payments are an opportunity for renewables. However, millions are still being spent on the fossil fuel industry, subsidies still tend to maintain the system rather than support a paradigm shift towards more sustainable structures.

## BOARD MEETING ON AUGUST 5

New policy papers on the climate crisis, EEG reform, post-EEG plants and digitalization (smart meters) are initiated. Plans for the Public utilities conference, the IRES conference and the IRES symposium are discussed.



## BOARD MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 18

The German board discusses the EEG amendment, which transforms the EEG into an instrument against the decentralized expansion of renewables and self-supply. Smart metering renders self-consumption too expensive. A paper on the EEG reform is to be drafted as discussions are held in the Bundestag. New EUROSOLAR events are planned.

## BOARD MEETING ON DECEMBER 9

In the meeting, the EEG amendment, the hydrogen initiative of the federal government and the handling of old plants are criticized. EUROSOLAR writes a letter to NRW Minister President Laschet on closing the EnergyAgency.NRW. The next general meeting is prepared.

# Sections



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EUROSOLAR Austria was founded by Hermann Scheer in 1989 for promoting the knowledge of the urgent necessity of a transition from fossil to renewable energies. This knowledge is common now and worldwide we see progress in reaching this transition. Austria contributed in abandoning nuclear power already 1978 and its electricity is coming mainly from hydropower and wind. Our minister for climate, environment, energy and transport is a front woman from the environment and climate protection movement and we are looking forward to a new and effective legislation.

EUROSOLAR Austria has organized the Austrian Solar Prize yearly since 30 years and in 2020 the ceremony took place on October the 3rd in the small town Raabs on Thaya in the forest region of Lower Austria called Waldviertel with great regional support. On the other hand EUROSOLAR Austria is organizing monthly an open club event on aspects of the transition to renewables and could do this also in 2020, partly it had to be performed as video conference.



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### **We mourn the loss of our member and EUROSOLAR Honorary Vice President Dr. Preben Maegaard**

As early as the 1970s, Preben began to work for a future with 100% renewable energies. He was the founder and longstanding director of the Nordic Folkecenter for renewable energies, which was founded in 1983 in Ydby near Hurup (Thy).

In 1988 he was one of the founding members of EUROSOLAR and was vice-president for almost two decades. Preben was the father and pioneer of many projects and initiatives for the further development of renewable energies. From 1997 to 2002 he was also a member of the Danish National Committee for Wave Energy and in the same period also a member of the Danish National Committee for Hydrogen for Transport Purposes. From 1999 to 2002 he was an advisor for renewable energies to the President of Mali Alpha Konare.

Preben had a global perspective; international cooperation was not just lip service for him, but the practice of his work for renewable energies. Whenever you visited him at the Nordisc Folkecenter, you met students from all sorts of countries who worked and researched there. So it is only logical that today you can also find folk centers for renewable energies in Mali, Uganda and Chile.

Without Preben, wind energy would not be as advanced as it is today. As an engineer, he was not fooled by those who tried to ridicule the use of wind power in the 70s and 80s – and also in the 90s – and also laughed at him. And even if we wholeheartedly wished him an even longer life, we are comforted by the thought that he has witnessed the breakthrough in large-scale electricity generation from wind power – and with it the confirmation that he was on the right track.

His tireless commitment is both an idol and a mandate for us to continue working with all our might for a future in which all of our energy consumption is covered by renewable energies. Because this was Preben's vision and this vision lives on in us. Thank you, Preben, for being with us and at our side, we will never forget you!

Dr. Preben Maegaard died on March 25th, 2021 at the age of 85.



## EUROSOLAR Hungary

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### Death of Judit Ronai

EUROSOLAR was deeply saddened to learn of the early death of Judit Ronai, founder and chairwoman of the EUROSOLAR Hungary Section. The dedicated and inspiring EUROSOLAR comrade-in-arms passed away on 5 November 2019. Most recently, she had expressed her happiness that Hungarian cities like Kaposvár were making great progress in the development of solar energy. In 1996 Judit Ronai founded EUROSOLAR Hungary with István Dukát, Tamás Inotai and Péter Imrik and worked closely with the Nordisk Folkecenter For Renewable Energy. One of the section's main focuses was organizing conferences on renewables and combatting the climate crisis in Hungary and the Visegrad countries. At the request of the European Union, her working group had organized numerous architectural congresses that brought about tremendous changes in Western Europe. With Judit Ronai, EUROSOLAR lost an energetic companion. We will remember her with great fondness and wish her family much strength during this difficult time.



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### EUROSOLAR Lëtzebuerg a.s.b.l. Activity Report 2020:

The activities of the association are based on three main axes, as defined in mission statement in accordance with our agreement with the government:

Axis 1: Monitoring of the impact of the supply with renewable energies such as wind, water and sun in particular. All forms of renewable energy production and storage are concerned,

Axis 2: Advice on regulations, laws and statistics/projections in relation to the objectives according to axis 1;

Axis 3: Informing and communicating on various societal levels (politics, technics, economy, consumers, ...) about the wide range of options and opportunities connected to renewables, among those and above all solar power)

Please find below a list of our projects and activities for the year 2020:

Activities axis 1:

- Taking part in different online seminars in relation to renewable energies
- Strategic partnership in the PV follows function project (Interreg). EUROSOLAR Lëtzebuerg actively participates in the collection of information, exchanges and conclusion of partnerships; monthly meetings are organized.
- Cooperation and partnership with the Energy Cooperatives section of CELL (Centre for ecological learning Luxembourg) for future projects.
- Partnership with Votum Klima, a national platform gathering various NGOs discussing climate issues.

Activities axis 2:

- Position paper „Extension of subsidies for PV installations“.
- Publishing of the „Guide luxembourgeois d'Intégration architecturale de panneaux solaires photovoltaïques“ and the website „archipv.lu“.

Activities axis 3:

- The first 5 podcast episodes of our program “d’Sonn am Stecker” (“the sun in the plug”) have been created, edited and published in-house. They are available on our website ([www.euro-solar.lu](http://www.euro-solar.lu)) and on Spotify.
- 2 video documentaries have been created, edited and published in-house. They are available on our website and on YouTube.
  - Press conference “archipv.lu”
  - Documentary about the energy cooperative “EnerCoop Uelzechtdall”
- Creation and maintenance of two new websites („[eurosolar.lu](http://eurosolar.lu)” and „[archipv.lu](http://archipv.lu)”),
- Creation of a Facebook, Twitter and Instagram page
- Monthly meetings of the council



## EUROSOLAR Netherlands

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2020 was first and foremost the year in which the founding of the Dutch section of EUROSOLAR got off the ground. After initial discussions in 2019, a systematic founding initiative was started up around June 2020 by reaching out to additional founding members (in total 8 people) and organizing a regular meeting scheme. In these meetings we defined the best role for EUROSOLAR NL in the existing energy transition landscape of the Netherlands, including also the identification of potential strategic partners.

The result of these discussions was the aim to establish ourselves as a knowledge- and lobby platform in support of the dynamic grass roots energy cooperative movement. We set up a strategic partnership with and became member of the Dutch umbrella organization for these numerous energy cooperatives, Energie Samen (= “Energy Together”). With 5 university professors and researchers we are in a good position to provide a broad scope of in-depth knowledge and/or links

to knowledge. With another 3 founding members from politics, journalism and entrepreneurship we have great capacities to reach out to politics and companies.

Furthermore, the (still informal) Dutch section proposed four interesting candidates for the 2020 European Solar Prize. One of these candidates was awarded with a prize, in the category “educational and vocational training”. The proud winner was Schooldakrevolutie (= School Roof Revolution). This is an ambitious initiative aiming at the realization of PV systems on all suitable school roofs in the Netherlands. The goal of this initiative is to speed up the energy transition by inspiring not only the school children, but also their parents, teachers and others with the realization of beautiful PV systems on school roofs.



## EUROSOLAR Russia

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## EUROSOLAR Spain

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**Catalan and Spanish sections were founded in 1999 with a small group of people involved professionally with renewables.**

The main activities of both sections are

- To lobby at the Catalan and Spanish levels to push for 100% renewables.
- To organize the Spanish Solar Prize from 2001 to 2016. Since 2017 the Prize is suspended in solidarity to the Catalan people because the violent action of the Spanish police against citizens who were voting peacefully exercising the Right to Self-Determination in a Referendum called by the democratically elected Catalan Government.
- To support and leading renewable energy projects.
- To educate people on the use of renewable energy technologies.

During 2020, despite the lockdown caused by the pandemic, members of EUROSOLAR have participated in some lectures:

- Annual lecture at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (May 2020)
- Presentation of Community Power in Catalonia and Spain at the WWEA webinar Why Community Power Matters in Times of Crisis (April 2020)
- Lecture about Energy Transition: the energy at the people's hands at the Consell Comarcal de l'Alt Jussà (November 27)



EUROSOLAR Catalonia has been involved with the co-organisation of The 7th Catalan Congress of Energy (February 2020) together with the Association Congr s Catal  d'Energia.

The president of EUROSOLAR Spain published some articles in different media

- 3 articles in the energias-renovables.com, the best Spanish renewable energy web based and printed magazine:
  - The renewables' missing/forgotten link (1/31/2020)
  - Emergencies, energy and limits (4/14/2020)
  - EROItism, a new scientism religion? (7/9/2020)
- 1 article at EUROSOLAR TIMES magazine:
  - In case of emergency: Solar Energy (Summer 2020)
- 3 articles at the l'Unilateral web based magazine
  - Coronavirus. What if we take the opportunity to change direction? (4/7/2020)
  - When the „left vanguard“ proves to be the broom car (7/14/2020)
  - The name of each thing: the case of the locution 'environment' or how to water ecology (11/14/2020)

On October 31st, 2020, EUROSOLAR Catalonia published a report 'Comments on a presentation made at the Round table on the implementation of wind farms in alternative locations in the rural environment, organized by the Association of Microtowns of Catalonia', dismantling falsehoods and clich s around wind farms and rural areas.

At the January 30th, 2020, EUROSOLAR Catalonia made public the Press Release 'Stop at once playing irresponsibly with renewables'.

Parliamentary work done by Pep Puig during 2020:

- Interpellation to the Government on renewable energies as opportunities for the territory (November 19th, 2020)
- Defense of important amendments to a motion on transition and decarbonization of the Catalan economy (December 3rd, 2020): The text adopted unanimously at the Parliament is: The Parliament of Catalonia urges the Government of the Generalitat to:

1. Develop clean solar, wind, geothermal and pumping-hydro, or any other renewable to increase the installed capacity to at least 12,000 MW in 2030, in order to achieve the goal that this year 2030 50% of all the electricity will be renewable

1.1. Treat with priority all energy generation projects from renewable sources, with the following criteria:

1.1.A. Projects based on cooperative-community-citizen and self-generation projects with direct use of the energy produced.

Renewable Energy generation projects based on cooperative, community, citizen schemes must have a differentiated administrative treatment that facilitates their implementation, as stated in Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources: „the reduction of administrative requirements“, to make the energy communities a fully recognized reality in the said Directive, which even states: „... that renewable energy communities be remunerated through direct aid if they meet the requirements of small installations“.

1.1.B. Projects for commercial purposes

Renewable Energy generation projects for commercial purposes must enable citizen participation, especially of people living in the vicinity (municipality, county and nearby counties) of the project, as stated in Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources: „with the aim to increase the local participation of the citizens in the renewable energy projects and, therefore, to increase the acceptance of the renewable energies“, as it demonstrates innumerable existing projects everywhere.

1.2. To promote consensus formulas between all the political forces within the framework of the

Political Table of the PNTE (Pacte Nacional per a la Transició Energètica – National Agreement for the Energy Transition) to obtain the commitment of all of them with the aim of avoiding that the implantation of the renewable energies in the country would be object of electoral instrumentation and partisan use.



## EUROSOLAR Ukraine

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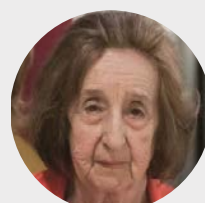
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(†) 25. März 2021



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# FINANCES

EUROSOLAR e.V. was financed in 2020 from membership fees and donations.

## Annual budget for the year 2020 (in €, rounded to 1,000)

<b>REVENUE 2020</b>	<b>242.000</b>
Membership fees	120.000
Donations	43.000
Income from events	46.000
Public relations/campaigns	9.000
Other income (sales tax, rent, PV feed-in)	24.000

<b>EXPENDITURE 2020</b>	<b>218.000</b>
Personnel costs	132.000
Office, rent, material costs, communication	46.000
External costs of events	14.000
Public relations/campaigns	15.000
Other expenditure (VAT, fees)	11.000

<b>BALANCE 2020</b>	<b>24.000</b>
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We would like to thank all of our members, supporters and donors, as well as the attendees of our events, who make it possible for us to be active in this important area.

## Remarks:

The association's total expenses in 2020 were lower overall than in the previous year, partly because the office team continued to shrink and employees were working reduced hours for parts of the year due to pandemic-related restrictions.

However, event activity revenue also decreased due to pandemic-related cancellations and/or the transition to online activities. Event revenue includes ticket revenue from paid conference events, as well as sponsorship and grant contributions. External costs of events include all external costs such as catering, technology, room rentals, advertising, and external personnel of both the paid and free events (e.g., solar awards). Donations also decreased.

Membership fees collected decreased slightly. A donation initiative at the end of the year nearly compensated for this development. The other income listed includes both the rental income from the sublet office floor and the income from the two PV systems. The other expenses consist of sales tax as well as fees.

The item public relations/campaigns mainly comprised the magazine SOLARZEITALTER, which was published twice in 2020, and the English-language online publication EURO-SOLAR TIMES. Personnel expenses decreased significantly compared to the previous year. At the end of 2020, four female staff members were employed by EUROSOLAR e.V., each in individual part-time arrangements. In addition, two interns were employed during the year who received small remunerations.

For 2021, EUROSOLAR's regular activities will continue and new events will be formulated and offered, taking into account the ongoing pandemic-related constraints. In addition, new sources of income are to be developed.



# Outlook



For the coming year, the coming decade even, EUROSOLAR has big plans.

If we do not want to fail in the protection of all living beings for which we bear responsibility, and if we do not want to fail in ensuring the survival of our own species, unprecedented, unimagined efforts are needed that are tantamount to a rapid mobilization against the existential threat. Concrete steps through a quickly conceived emergency mobilization and financing of renewable energies, ending of fossil subsidies, structural reorganization measures in the energy sector and targeted social transformations towards a regenerative world cannot be postponed.

Therefore EUROSOLAR calls for a fully regenerative decade, in which the complete supply with renewable energies is the minimum requirement. It will make our economy more sustainably resilient and socially acceptable – in an encouraging and future-proof way. With grassroots publications, legal and institutional innovations, policy tools and events, EUROSOLAR has been advocating for a rapid turnaround into the ecological solar age since 1988 and will tighten the reins once again in 2020 to address new target groups and attract new members. In addition to appealing to a younger target group both through digital communication and appropriate events, we also want to put a stronger focus on transnational cooperation again in order to gain comrades-in-arms across Europe.

At the end of the year, we would like to thank our loyal members on behalf of EUROSOLAR, who make an important contribution to the success of our work and to maintaining our independence. This way we can work non-profit and non-partisan for a decentralized and socially just energy supply based on renewable energies.

We would be pleased if you would continue to support us financially in the new year with your active membership or a donation!

**<https://www.eurosolar.de/de/index.php/spenden>**

**[www.eurosolar.de](https://www.eurosolar.de)**

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