We fight for the energy transition and a sustainable, environmentally friendly and socially just economy based on 100% renewable energies.

Annual Report 2021
EUROSOLAR e.V.’s substantive tasks have further intensified in 2021, while its organizational and financial situation remained stable. We are still strongly focused on new members, donations, publications, awards and events.

What was unimaginable at the time of our foundation is now reality. The struggle for the solar, renewable world is coming to a head. After years of resistance in Europe and Germany, the global signs of accelerated climate destabilization became completely unmistakable in 2021. What used to be called a ‘shrill warning’ is now a daily discourse.

Still, the energy transition lags badly behind the need not only to remove fossil and nuclear energy, but also to strengthen the health of the biosphere from agriculture to wetlands. That’s why EUROSGAR e.V. has been calling for 100% renewables for over 35 years, and for over a decade as the basis for the broad regenerative turnaround, and very specifically since 2020 in its original Regenerative Decade initiative, the Ten-Point Mobilization of the ‘Regenerative Earth Decade’ [RED - earthdecade.org] - from climate defense budgets to the implementation of a climate peace diplomacy.

EUROSOLAR e.V. and EUROSGAR’s sections have intensified their work in the second year of the pandemic and carried out all planned core activities, whether these are awards or events, publications or. In addition to its international tasks, EUROSGAR e.V. authorizes and supervises its independent sections from Ukraine to Luxembourg. - and welcomed a new section from the Netherlands in 2021.

EUROSOLAR e.V. is managed through its Delegate Assembly by all Sections, and in 2021 this took place again, with a global call of the implementation of our RED campaign. This annual report includes not only EUROSGAR e.V. but also EUROSGAR Germany as the oldest Section, as both organizations continue to share a team, office and budget for historical, communication and efficiency reasons.

The German section handled its Solar Prize and Stadtwerke conference, and made efforts in research and media projects. Financially, the association was very successful, thanks to increasing donations and savings, and membership fees. The solidarity and important support of the C&U Baumeister Foundation, as well as other important supporters, was reflected in a healthy balance sheet.

I thank the association’s board, staff, as well as the European associations that together constitute the delegates’ conference. First of all, I thank our members - because all EUROSGAR section members are members of the parent association, EUROSGAR e.V. Their loyal, energetic solidarity and generous contributions mean that we can expand our essential mission.

Prof. Peter Droege, President EUROSGAR
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WELCOME TO #IRES 2021! – ONLINE CONFERENCE

Experts from all over the world met online for EUROSOLAR’s fully digital International Renewable Energy Storage Conference. For three days, it was all about innovative battery technology, thermal storage and RenPower2X energy systems – in over 70 presentations, 10 thematic focus sessions, a German-language lecture series and a digital poster exhibition with live presentations. Hundreds of participants were on hand to present research, share knowledge, and advance the transition to renewable energy.

In his welcoming speech, Prof. Peter Droege, President of EUROSOLAR e.V., expressed his excitement about the progress of energy storage: „The IRES conference is the world’s largest scientific conference on renewable energy storage. In its 15th year, IRES focuses on the central role that energy storage systems play in a decentralized, locally usable economy based on 100 percent renewable energy. Regulatory, financial and policy simplification steps are on the horizon to open markets for a renewable energy storage revolution.“

Prof. Dr. Hans-Martin Henning, Chairman of the IRES Scientific Committee, Director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE and member of the German government’s independ-
ent Council of Experts on Climate Change, commented on climate, policy frameworks and markets, „Renewables will dominate our future energy system. With high shares of volatile supply, measures to increase flexibility will become central to secure supply and stable operation. All types of energy storage will therefore become key components on the way to a climate-neutral, renewable energy system.”

Dr. Peter Schossig, also from the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE and a member of the IRES scientific committee, added: „In particular, the urgently needed transformation of our industrial processes towards CO₂-neutral production requires further research. To increase the share of renewables, we need heat storage at different temperature levels and large power ranges. In addition, the integration of hydrogen will enable CO₂-neutral production of concrete and steel.”

The German-language lecture series on March 18 was led by the renowned EnergieAgentur.NRW and discussed current issues such as the Green Deal, the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG) and the transformation of opencast mines in Germany. Managing Director Lothar Schneider opened the series, saying, „Storage systems are an essential building block of the energy transition. That is why it is very important that we can once again welcome experts on the topics of electricity and heat storage at IRES this year. There is still a lot of potential for improvement, especially in heat storage, and the possible applications are many and varied. They must be tapped and exploited so that Germany can achieve the goals of the European Union’s Green Deal. And the challenge is: How can we make storage technology widely usable on an industrial scale?”

In his closing statement, Prof. Dr. Ingo Stadler, TH Köln, called for action: „If not now, when? If we tackle the big crisis [climate] anywhere near as boldly as we tackle the small crisis [Covid], we can do it! We need to stop just talking about transformation and start acting. The technological solutions are ready, now we finally need a regulatory framework that takes into account the implementation of energy storage solutions and sector coupling.”
14TH EURO SOLAR-CONFERENCE “MUNICIPALITIES WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY” ONLINE

Around 80 participants from all over Germany exchanged views on the current opportunities and challenges for municipal utilities and the relationship between industrial policy and the energy transition.

In her opening statement, Margit Conrad, former Minister of State of Rhineland-Palatinate and board member of EURO SOLAR Germany, emphasized the key role of municipal utilities for a successful energy transition: “Sector coupling as a decisive part of a successful energy transition can only function on a decentralized basis. It is therefore essential that the German government strengthens the role of municipal utilities and regional players by amending the legal framework. The potential in the municipalities must be leveraged – today’s Stadtwerke conference sends a clear signal in this regard.”

Wolfgang Bühring, Managing Director of Stadtwerke Speyer GmbH, emphasized the importance of the exchange between municipal utilities: “By 2030, SWS wants to produce as much green electricity in its own plants as the whole of Speyer needs. Alongside the citizens, the municipal
utilities are a key player in the implementation of the energy transition locally and in the region. They are close to their customers and enable intelligent, decentralized energy solutions. We are glad to be able to promote the exchange among municipal utilities and other energy transition stakeholders with this conference.”

After the political opening by Speyer’s Lord Mayor Stefanie Seiler, Margit Conrad and Wolfgang Bühring, Randolf Stich, State Secretary in the Ministry of the Interior of Rhineland-Palatinate, spoke about climate protection as a driver for growth, employment and innovation. Dr. Jürgen Fuchs, Chairman of the Board of Management of BASF Schwarzheide, then outlined the boundary conditions for a successful energy transformation from an industrial perspective, before the political panel discussed the controversial question of „Industrial policy and energy transition – how do they fit together?“

Later in the morning, Dr. Dietrich Schmitt from Fraunhofer IEE led the way through the presentations, which offered different perspectives – those of industry and municipal utilities – on implementation options for sector coupling. After various thematic expert cafés, the speakers got to the bottom of the energy transition’s status quo in the afternoon under the motto „What’s wrong?“.

The successful 14th “Stadtwerke” conference came to a close with the conclusion of Dr. Fabio Longo, Vice President of EURO SOLAR. He praised the lively discussions, the cooperation of the conference topics and the will of the municipal utilities to push forward the decentralized energy transition.
A STAGE FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION – 
GERMAN SOLAR PRIZE AWARDED IN BONN

In 2021, EURO SOLAR had the honor of presenting the German Solar Prize 2021 to innovative ac-
tors in the energy transition in EURO SOLAR’s hometown of Bonn together with EnergieAgentur
NRW. At the festive award ceremony held under the motto “A stage for the energy transition”
in the art museum of Bonn, the award winners vividly demonstrated how the challenges of the
climate crisis and energy turnaround can be met with creativity and commitment. A celebratory
mood prevailed among the guests at the award ceremony. The optimism emanating from the
award winners should inspire more people to commit themselves to the climate and the citi-
zen-oriented energy transition.

In his welcoming address, EURO SOLAR President Prof. Peter Droege found clear words: „The
German Solar Prize honors achievements that show what our economy and society should al-
ready look like across the board today, so that we would not have gotten into the situation in the
first place from which we must laboriously extricate ourselves today. We owe this to measures
taken by the federal and state governments to put the brakes on, as well as to the lobby of the
conventional energy industry. The fact that German people, communities and organizations have
taken the initiative to meet this challenge for society as a whole in such a practically convincing
and exemplary way makes them Germany’s energy heroes.”
Luisa Neubauer, Solar Prize 2021 winner, pointed out in a video message the importance of decentralized citizen energy for the success of the energy transition. Despite the still insufficient political efforts, she expressed optimism: “We have the knowledge that things can be different. That a complete energy transition is possible in the near future. I see that this society is developing more and more courage and that is what we need.” She went on to point out that while this award ceremony was taking place, villages such as Lützerath are still to be destroyed for open-cast coal mining, although “we know that we neither need nor are allowed to use coal according to our CO₂ budget.”

The German Solar Prize 2021 goes to:

**In the category cities/municipalities, districts, municipal utilities**
- Stadtwerke Trier (Municipal utilities Trier) for climate-neutral drinking water supply using hydropower, PV and intelligent storage solutions

**In the category industrial, commercial or agricultural enterprises/companies**
- Fabian Karthaus and Josef Kneer (“LAND allerliebst”) for the efficient and innovative use of agri-photovoltaics on a soft fruit orchard

**In the category local or regional associations/communities**
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft Hessische Wasserkraftwerke (Working group hydropower Hesse) for promoting hydropower as an important renewable energy source

**In the category Education and Training**
- The German „Solarmobil“ championship for getting schoolchildren excited about solar energy

**In the category Special Award for Personal Commitment**
- Luisa Neubauer for her commitment as an ambassador for renewable energies and climate protection

**Plaque award winner 2021**
for extraordinary constructional and technical achievements in the field of renewable energies and energy efficiency

- Markt Buttenheim for the AREALSTROMNETZ
- GAIA mbH for the COMPANY BUILDING ENERGY-PLUS-BUILDING

**Members of the jury**
Claus P. Baumeister, Tetra Systems GmbH, Kuratorium EUROSOLAR
Dr. Axel Berg, Vorsitzender des Vorstands, EUROSOLAR Deutschland
Prof. Peter Droge, Präsident, EUROSOLAR
Dr. Joachim Frielingsdorf, Leiter Kommunikation und Pressesprecher, EnergieAgentur.NRW
Johannes Hegger, Architekt, HHS Planer + Architekten AG
Rosa Hemmers, Vizepräsidentin, EUROSOLAR
Dr. Fabio Longo, Vizepräsident, EUROSOLAR
Beate Petersen, Vorstand, EUROSOLAR Deutschland
Dr. Brigitte Schmidt, Vizepräsidentin, EUROSOLAR
Fabian Stichtenoth, Fridays For Future Deutschland
Prof. Eberhard Waffenschmidt, 1. Vorsitzender, SFV Deutschland e.V.
EUROPEAN SOLAR PRIZE 2021/22 – ONLINE

“Revolutionaries of the Energy Transition”: Outstanding examples for a Regenerative Europe

EUROSOLAR and its Dutch section have awarded the European Solar Prize 2021/22 on December 2, 2021 in Amsterdam and Berlin via live stream due to the pandemic.

The ten winners range from the City of Paris for its pioneering role as a European capital in pursuing a comprehensive regenerative action program, to the Swiss NGO Solafrica for promoting useful solar energy projects across Africa. By awarding this prize, EUROSOLAR highlights the enormous potential that has to be realized rapidly to move towards a climate positive society and economy.

The winner projects are outstanding examples of the innovative spirit and commitment of individual actors who make a significant contribution in the transition to decentralized renewable energy supply across Europe.

In her welcoming address, Marieke van Doorninck, Amsterdam Alderwoman for Sustainability and Spatial Development, expressed her delight in the Dutch capital being host to the European Solar Prize for 2021/22: “In Amsterdam and the Netherlands we are proud of our renewable energy achievements, projects and their creators. We need all these innovators, all these dreamers – and we need them to be inspiring for the rest of the population and also for the rest of the world.”

Prof. Peter Droege, Chairman of the Jury and President of EUROSOLAR, moderated the award ceremony, addressed the winners and pointed out the importance of their contributions: “100% renewable energy communities, buildings, companies and farms are the essential base on which to found climate positive action. Rather than only aiming at climate neutrality Europe has to help lower greenhouse gas concentration systematically – and for this we need exactly the work that is premiated here – and have to promote it at the highest level”. Bas Eickhout, Founding Member
of EUROSOLAR NL and Member of the European Parliament, stressed: “It is so crucial to getting the right policies in place – in order to make sure that all the projects, we are seeing here, can be developed further. This is what we need! The real work is being done by all of you, and the Prize reflects this so well.”

Due to the pandemic the award ceremony took place online, which did not dampen the enthusiasm for the advancement of the energy transition. During the award ceremony, the winner projects were presented through interviews, presentations and films. The award winners are true energy heroes and make an incredible contribution in advancing the energy transition in Europe with their exemplary commitment.

The European Solar Prize is sponsored by the C&U Baumeister-Foundation for Sustainable Technology and in 2021/22 also by Energie Samen, the national organization for energy cooperatives in the Netherlands.

The European Solar Prize 2021 goes to:

**In the Category Towns, municipalities, council districts, public utilities**
- Berliner Stadtwerke, Germany for their commitment to advancing the energy transition in Berlin
- City of Paris, France for its pioneering role as a capital in climate protection

**In the Category Solar architecture and urban planning**
- Bildungscampus Seestadt Aspern, Austria for the creation of a climate-active educational campus

**In the Category Industrial and commercial companies or farmers**
- SUSI Partners, Switzerland for their pioneering contribution in exclusively financing renewable energies

**In the Category Local or regional associations / organisations**
- Thuisbaas, Netherlands for showing renters and house owners how to switch from natural gas to renewable energy

**In the Category Owners and operators of renewable energy installations**
- Ørsted, Denmark for the successful transformation of the company’s focus away from fossil energy to 100% renewables

**In the Category Transport and mobility**
- Funicular railroad Magglingen, Switzerland for the innovative use of braking energy and photovoltaics
**In the Category: Education and vocational training**
- EFdeN, Romania for promoting sustainable development by educating the public and improving energy efficiency in Romanian cities

**In the Category: One World Cooperation**
- Solafrica, Switzerland for their commitment to the widespread use of solar energy for over 10 years, in Africa and other regions worldwide

**Members of the jury**
Claus P. Baumeister, Tetra Systems, EUROSOLAR Trustee  
Dr. Axel Berg, Chair, EUROSOLAR Germany  
Gallus Cadonau, Director, Solar Agency, Switzerland  
Professor Eliana Cangelli, University of Rome, Chair, EUROSOLAR Italy  
Prof. Peter Droege, Präsident, EUROSOLAR President, Jury Chair  
Nikos Fintikakis, International Union of Architects VP RII, Greece  
Johannes Hegger, Hegger Hegger Schleiff Architects, Germany  
Wolfgang Hein, Chair, EUROSOLAR, Austria  
Dr. Panos Mantziaras, Director, Fondation Braillard, Switzerland  
Jennifer McIntosh, Executive Secretary, ISES, Germany  
Dr. Josep Puig, Vorstand, Chair, EUROSOLAR Catalonia and Spain  
Fabian Stichtenoth, RE Student, Fridays for Future Germany
After a break of two years, EnergieAgentur.NRW and EUROSOLAR e.V. invited again to the IRES symposium on December 15 and informed and discussed the issues on the energy transition with the speakers on site and more than 100 web participants in the SilentGreen in Berlin. „Climate protection is a global and European task. As a technology and export nation, Germany bears a special responsibility, both in terms of local jobs and a European and international spillover and knock-on effect. Our future prosperity will be based on sustainability and thus decisively on renewable energies. The success of this development depends on its acceleration. To this end, the Bundestag must continue to remove legal barriers and strengthen incentives in the new legislative period,” emphasizes Dr. Nina Scheer on behalf of EUROSOLAR and as Chair of the Hermann Scheer Foundation, who serves as Co-Chair of the event alongside Marlies Diephaus. „The challenges from the new climate protection goals must be faced by all. The climate-compatible restructuring of the energy supply system is a key success factor in this. For North Rhine-Westphalia, however, this also means above all securing the energy supply. In addition to an increased expansion of renewable energies and the development of a smart energy infrastructure, a particular focus is also on the decarbonization of residential neighborhoods. The projects discussed here today show interesting solutions for our energy future”, adds Marlies Diephaus from the NRW Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy.

Kerstin Andreae urges the rapid implementation of the energy transition: „We need to turbo-charge the energy transition.” That for this however in all sectors much more ambitious efforts would have to be undertaken than so far and the appropriate basic conditions be created, affirmed the chairwoman of the general management of the Federal association of the energy and water economy, in order to reach effectively the goals of the necessary climatic protection.

The contributions of the speakers focused on the one hand on the global energy transition and the role of Europe and Germany and on the other hand on concrete technologies and practical examples. Sector coupling and storage were mentioned here as the most important elements of the energy transition, but also the rethinking of supply structures. This means an increased degree of systemic thinking, as is already being thought for individual supply areas, such as existing and newly emerging neighborhoods.
SEPTEMBER 16, BONN, HOTEL MARITIM
GLOBAL RENEWABLE ENERGY FORUM 2021

The 5th edition of the Global Renewable Energy Forum (GREF) was organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Bonn Office in cooperation with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and REN21 – the Renewable Energy Network for the 21st Century. It was supported by the Korean-German Energy Partnership of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, Republic of Korea, and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Federal Republic of Germany. GREF 2021 took place as a hybrid conference on September 16, 2021. GREF’s focus this year was on pathways to climate neutrality (net zero emissions) and the role of cities in the energy transition. Over 200 interested people from 63 countries registered to participate online and 23 people attended the conference on-site. EUROSOlar was a partner of the event.

SEPTEMBER 24, BONN, EUROSOlar HOUSE
“BICYCLE SEMINAR” ON THE TOPIC OF „RENEWABLE ENERGIES”, ADVANCED TRAINING FOR EMPLOYEES
ORGANIZER: FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG IN COOPERATION WITH EUROSOlar
March 4, 2021
THE ENERGY TRANSITION ON STAGE: APPLY NOW FOR THE EUROPEAN SOLAR PRIZE

July 15, 2021
REVOLUTIONARIES OF THE ENERGY TRANSITION – SAVE THE DATE

August 16, 2021
FOR A STABLE CLIMATE ONLY COUNTS WHAT OUR GOVERNMENTS DO TODAY, NOT WHAT THEY PROMISE FOR TOMORROW

All elections are climate elections. Norway, the Russian Federation, Iceland, Germany, Armenia, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Ireland and Bulgaria all hold elections from September through December 2021. Portugal, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Albania, Cyprus and Moldova already had recent elections – besides the many local and regional elections across Europe.

This is EUROSOLAR’s pre- and post-election campaign contribution, and compact guide to voters and elected officials alike. For a stable climate only counts what our governments do today, not what they promise for tomorrow.

The fact that it had to come to judgements by Dutch, German and other Constitutional Courts on Climate Protection makes only one thing clear: for all of us existentially important measures have been put off by our governments for far too long. The climate destabilization has progressed so far that full supply with renewable energies has now become a basic and immediate existential conditio sine qua non, a prerequisite for climate stabilization.

The necessary renewable technologies have long been available and are indeed mature. We must unleash them today and not wait for the day after tomorrow. Comprehensive energy policy measures will both overcome the pandemic and accelerate the climate-positive transformation.

What are we waiting for?

Take Germany, for example: once it was a globally celebrated pioneer – it has become a climate laggard over the last ten years, losing hundreds of thousands of valuable renewable energy industry jobs by succumbing to pressures by incumbent industries. Like other European countries from Greece to Siberia, from France to Great Britain the country has experienced in 2021 the existential
threat that we all now experience on a daily basis: heat, drought, fires, floods, snap freezing temperatures. Surely this is the final wake-up call.

Europe’s new national governments must begin to implement the following as early as 2022: Abolition of all climate-damaging subsidies: oil, coal and natural gas still receive market-distorting benefits; trillions of euros in subsidies are expended annually world-wide for industry exemptions or direct fossil fuel tax supports. They prevent fair competition with renewable energies and can be abolished quickly.

CO₂ pricing only makes fossil energy consumption more expensive; it contributes nothing to decarbonization. Instead, we need to build many more renewable energy plants. New fossil-fuel power plants must no longer be allowed to come online. The financial resources saved must be returned to the citizens and invested in a targeted manner in sustainable market ramp-ups – for climate-positive construction, electromobility or decentralized storage solutions.

The de-bureaucratization of renewable energies is crucial. Renewable energies are cheaper today than electricity from depreciated coal-fired power plants or the import of oil or gas. They save money and ensure good air quality in our cities. Together with regional electricity and heat storage facilities, they can largely meet our own needs. Autonomy in our own thermal energy needs and enough electricity that it is also sufficient for mobility must be fundamentally de-bureaucratized. This applies to home builders as well as to existing neighborhoods, local governments, businesses or industry.

The decision to buy the largest possible photovoltaic system, preferably with storage, and the installation must be as simple as buying a new refrigerator, or installing a sauna. Lengthy approval procedures and complicated building regulations must be scrapped or simplified. Tendering procedures, caps, levies and disproportionate distance regulations that inhibit citizen energy in particular must be eliminated. Let us use the opportunities of digitization only where they make sense. Only in this way digitization offers great opportunities in making the energy transition more efficient – it is not an end in itself.

Digital harassments such as arbitrary smart meter obligations violate consumer privacy rights and are only an obstacle to the rapid expansion of photovoltaics. Effective use of digitization means automatically controlling energy consumption in the home – and storing surpluses. Such efficient in-house technologies must become commonplace. Big Data and AI-controlled plants disenfranchise plant operators and lead to a recentralization of the energy transition through the digital back door.

EUROSOLAR demands:

- A true decentralized energy transition with rapid expansion of renewable plants, benefiting the climate, communities and all citizens.
- The nationwide installation of decentralized energy storage and load distribution.
- The phase-out of oil, coal and natural gas and no heedless rush into ill-considered hydrogen dependencies.

All elections are climate elections. To create a framework of the overall measures needed to stabilize the climate, EUROSOLAR created a 10-point program in early 2020: the Regenerative Decade. Here we show the central and urgent role that the overall economic transformation regenerative European nations will assign to renewable energies: www.earthdecade.org.
October 18, 2021

REGENERATIVE EARTH DECADE: FOR A HEALTHY PLANET, CLIMATE NEUTRALITY IS NOT ENOUGH

EUROSOLAR’s Regenerative Decade shows the acceleration towards a climate-positive economy and regenerative society, essential for sustaining a healthy environment.

Everyone is talking about climate neutrality, about ‘Net Zero’ by 2050. Yet such concepts are not only insufficient as goals for society as a whole, and difficult to implement because of their calculative vagueness. They are also set far too late – about 50 years too late. It is as illogical as it is irresponsible to demand climate neutrality with 420 millionths of a part (ppm) of CO₂ in the atmosphere today – or probably just under 500 ppm in 2050 – when 280 ppm is the stable level. The demand and action must always be called and mean climate positivity.

Everyone talks about the Paris Climate Agreement – and yet it is equally clear that not only is no country on earth prepared to achieve its goals in the foreseeable future, but also that the Paris Climate Agreement was already aimed at insufficient goals. Two degrees of increase, even 1.5 degrees, were demonstrably too much for the stability of the earth’s ice world, from the Arctic via permafrost to Greenland, via glaciers worldwide to Antarctica: everything began to visibly melt away at only half a degree increase. Today, the average global warming compared to the actual pre-industrial time of 1750 is very likely already over 2 degrees. To gloss over this glaring inconsistency, official reports now only refer to 1860, 1990 and even 2006 as reference years.

Through a combination of skillful delay tactics and a – seemingly scientifically supported – lulling of the public into a sense of security, fossil industries but also some governments have misled themselves, the world, Europe and especially Great Britain’s people for decades.

Previous measures and targets for ‘climate neutrality’ – which continue to emit – in far too long periods of 20 to 30 years are completely inadequate for the climate dynamics. Not only have CO₂ emissions risen to today’s 150%, still increasing excess: methane concentrations are already three times higher than a stable climate would tolerate over time: at over 1900 ppb instead of 600. Nevertheless, many still advocate natural gas as a bridge technology. But bridge to where? Methane is the biggest potential risk factor of all among the ongoing missteps: here, threatening things are brewing due to the thawing of Arctic soils, lakes and seabeds.

Even more underestimated in the public debate than the increasing atmospheric methane surplus is the deoxygenation of the atmosphere and oceans, which is slowly but inevitably accelerating under current conditions. Fossil resource combustion is the largest anthropogenic factor here. This currently releases as much CO₂ annually as atmospheric oxygen (O₂) is destroyed by burning and industrial processes: about 40 Gigatonnes per year – with both figures continuing to rise due to ongoing combustion practices.

This reverses in the blink of an eye the geological process that led to today’s oxygen-rich atmosphere 2.4 billion years ago, which is known to have been necessary for multicellular organisms and, most recently, the development of humans. There are indications that the removal of oxygen accelerated in the course of the increase in CO₂ and, due to feedbacks, in a relatively short period of time, even in human history – possibly only a few thousand years – atmospheric oxygen is threatening to collapse, with the suffocation of all O₂-dependent life. Only the cessation of fossil carbon emissions and withdrawal of their excess concentrations from the atmosphere through biospheric regeneration and other measures, and permanent sequestration of carbon on a large scale can slow down this process.

The so-called carbon budget – the supposed possibility of emitting ever more waste gases without taking any significant risk – is pure fantasy, a convenient fairy tale to push business as usual. The global terrestrial carbon management system, weakened by over-exploitation of biospheric resources, is so sensitive that the slightest fluctuations in GHG concentrations and temperatures spell disaster. In fact, this so-called budget was already exceeded by the time CO₂ concentrations had substantially exceeded 280 ppm: by 1990 they were already above 350 ppm.
None of the parties, no politician has yet faced up to this problem – and practically none of the climate experts themselves. Everyone talks about climate neutrality as a miracle cure, although this glosses over the truth, is certainly misleading and wastes precious time as a distant moving target. The critical targets – temperatures, concentrations – along with emissions are all below, not above, current levels.

Much more powerful methods are needed than are currently being considered and debated in cabinets and parliaments in Germany, Europe and around the world: this is tantamount to a general mobilisation. Nevertheless, they are possible, relatively simple and existentially inevitable.

These include the following points of the Regenerative Decade

1. The introduction of a climate defence budget for the rapid phase-out of fossil fuels and switch to renewables – this will represent a significant percentage of the gross national product, many times the size of most national defence budgets. If 80-100% of the Covid stimulus money still earmarked were also spent in this way, two major crises would be dealt with with one swoop.

2. Implementing climate emergency diplomacy and ending armed conflict in the common interest of fighting for survival against the common enemy – fossil fuel global warming. This includes European and global, effective and open climate migration management planning. For several billion fellow human beings will very soon have to look for a new home – even under the comparatively optimistic BAU assumptions of RCP 8.5.

3. The targeted restructuring of fossil industries through technical substitution programs, the removal of fossil subsidies and structural measures and transformation assistance. The immediate dismantling of the massively blocking regulations for renewable grids, storage and distributive systems – supported by a new, renewable energy market order cannot wait any longer.

4. The replacement of jobs in the fossil industries by prioritised structural reforms towards renewable industries. All experience suggests that these renewable industries make far greater contributions to employment and foster innovation.

5. The reversal of emission targets is the logical conclusion from the realisation that climate neutrality alone is not enough, and that so-called zero emission targets alone are no longer sufficient. The global economy needs strategies that are capable of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere.

6. The classification of fossil fuel resources as a lethal substance: their extraction and distribution should be declared unacceptable after a short transition period and, as a first step, no longer subsidised but heavily taxed at the source of extraction.

7. Biosequestration: the rapid build-up and renaturation of healthy, climate-active agricultural soils, wetlands and forests.

8. Industrial sequestration: the transformation of the construction industry and all productive industries and manufactures into carbon sequestering processes. This means large-scale conversions of atmospheric carbon into sustainable wood, carbon fibre and other solid carbon products, but also their bonding into stone.

9. Full exploitation of unprecedented productivity and innovation boosts for massive expansion of quality employment opportunities for all new citizens: existing and new climate refugees.

10. New financing mechanisms are needed that reward long-term investments such as defossilisation, agricultural reform and forestation with higher returns today than short-term investments. What is needed now are ‘future banks’ that create currencies with negative interest rates that encourage investment and whose spending is linked to sustainable products and services. EUROSOLAR calls for a focus and tightening of the European Green Deal, beyond lip service to
climate neutrality towards 100% renewables, carbon sequestering agriculture, afforestation with drought resistant forests and the rededication of the European circular economy directives into economy-wide carbon sequestration rules and regulations. The goal must be a climate-positive, emissions-negative world.

November 2, 2021
EUROSOLAR CALLS FOR ACTION WITH TEN-POINT PAPER – “THE REGENERATIVE EUROPE DECADE”

2 November 2021. Bonn. On the occasion of the current UN Climate Change Conference COP26 and the failure of the G20 countries in climate protection so far, the European Delegates Assembly of EUROSOLAR – European Association for Renewable Energy e. V. addresses politicians and the public with an urgent appeal. The Delegates Assembly, the highest body of EUROSOLAR with the representatives of its 13 national sections, calls for a Regenerative Europe Decade in order to go beyond the European Green Deal and rapidly transform Europe into an emission-negative and climate-positive continent in view of the atmospheric CO₂ concentration increasing far in excess of stable levels. EUROSOLAR outlines the measures needed to achieve this in its “Call for Action 2021” published today.

“When it comes to climate protection, the G20 countries continue to fail in their central mission – to safeguard the interests of their constituents and ensure their fundamental economic viability. The often demanded climate neutrality is not enough – and did not even get a mention in the practically empty communiqué of the recent G20 summit in Rome,” said Prof. Peter Droegé, President of EUROSOLAR. “Far more effective measures will be required than those which have been discussed by politicians so far.” Already in January last year, the Board of EUROSOLAR had declared the Regenerative Decade and in this context described ten measures that are mandatory to realize a rapid transformation towards a climate-positive economy and society.

“It is irresponsible to demand climate neutrality with the today’s CO₂ concentration of nearly 420 parts per million. The goal can only be a climate positive footprint,” Droegé explains. Thus – according to the first demand of the paper – the emission targets would have to be redefined, since the emission targets formulated so far by the policy are aligned only to climatic neutrality, but not to climatic positivity, which is absolutely necessary, in order to secure the basis of existence of our societies.

In the ten-point paper, EUROSOLAR further calls for the mobilization of a climate defense budget to finance a phase-out of fossil fuels and a transformation to 100 % renewables within less than ten years, the implementation of a European and global climate migration management planning, as billions of people will seek new homes due to escalating global heating, and besides agricultural and soil management transformations demands the commitment of industry to carbon removal and material product binding processes.

November 18, 2021
16TH INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY STORAGE CONFERENCE: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS 2022 OPENED

November 26, 2021
EUROPEAN SOLAR PRIZE 2021/22 – WINNER PROJECTS: CONCRETE PATHWAYS TO A REGENERATIVE EUROPE

December 6, 2021
EUROSOLAR AWARDS EUROPEAN SOLAR PRIZE 2021/22: “INSPIRING FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD”: OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES FOR A REGENERATIVE EUROPE
SOLARZEITALTER

1/2021
The first issue of SOLARZEITALTER in 2021 dealt with opportunities and risks of an international hydrogen economy. Reference to the Bundestag elections in September 2021 was made by EURO-SOLAR Germany Chairman Axel Berg, while Fabio Longo called for a solar standard on buildings. Several articles documented the findings of the Stadtwerke conference in Speyer. Interviews were conducted with Mycle Schneider and Johanna Jaurich. Franz Alt’s popular column also continued in SOLARZEITALTER in 2021.

2/2021
The second issue in 2021 focused on Europe’s „Fit for 55“ climate package and highlighted how classifying nuclear energy and natural gas as „sustainable“ in the EU’s sustainable investment taxonomy would be fatal. Interviews with Angelina Galiteva and Stefan Gsänger looked back at 20 years of WCRE. Prof. Peter Droege presents WCRE’s plans for the Regenerative Decade. Further interviews were conducted with Gerd Stadermann and Eicke Weber.

EUROSOLAR TIMES

Spring 2021
EUROSOLAR Times, the digital and international counterpart to SOLARZEITALTER, came out with its second issue in early 2021. EUROSOLAR Times Spring 2021 ventured a European look at the state of the energy transition. Important topics were hydrogen and energy storage. The electric ferry „Ellen“, European Solar Prize winner 2020, showed an impressive example of the energy transition in transport.

Summer 2021
In the summer issue EUROSOLAR Times focused on green hydrogen in Europe and the geopolitical implications of hydrogen. In the interview, Krisztina André and Stefan Gsänger report on how women are committed to the energy transition and what role they play in the renewable energy sector. This issue took a look back at the nuclear disaster in Fukushima and why the lessons learned from this disaster must not be forgotten.
WEBSITE

Thanks to the kind support of the C&U Baumeister Foundation for Sustainable Technologies, EUROSOLAR was able to present itself with a new bilingual website in 2021. The switch to modern software not only allows for better display on mobile devices and more efficient operation for the office, but also has an integrated ticket/webshop and donation function.

SOCIAL MEDIA

In general, the EURO-SOLAR pages on social media platforms saw an increase in followers, especially on Twitter and LinkedIn. In 2022, a focus should continue to be placed here, as many people can be reached via these media.

Twitter

EUROSOLAR is represented with a German-language account on the short message service Twitter. This channel now reaches over 2,930 followers. The English-language account also gained new followers and can now reach over 500 people. The activities on Twitter are linked to those of the board members and European EURO-SOLAR sections active there.

Facebook & Instagram

Facebook is one of the most important platforms through which a large number of interested people can be reached. Around 700 people have subscribed to or liked the EURO-SOLAR page. Instagram is also becoming increasingly popular. The account has 370 followers so far.

Xing & LinkedIn

The two networks are used in particular for networking within the professional world and for addressing technically interested parties who are professionally active in the fields of renewable energies and the environment. Xing is an established platform in Germany, but the activity of many members is declining, so that it is now mainly used as a “contact book”. The EURO-SOLAR group has only 25 members and is inactive. LinkedIn, meanwhile, is establishing itself as the international professional counterpart to Facebook. EURO-SOLAR’s German page now has around 260 followers, while the English page has 100.

YouTube

By broadcasting the German and European Solar Awards, several hundred people could be reached in 2021. Through the cooperation with “Transparenz TV”, a new format was established with EURO-SOLAR TV.
MEETINGS OF EUROSOLAR E.V. AND THE EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES

In addition to four meetings of the Executive Board of EUROSOLAR e.V., the European Delegates Assembly, which is also the highest general meeting of the registered association.

AGENDA EUROSOLAR Delegates’ Assembly 2021
October 15th 2021, Online

Invited:
Prof. Peter Droge, Dr. Axel Berg, Iliya Ivanov Hadzhidimov, Morten Petersen, Francesca Sartogo, Eliana Cangelli, Henri Kox, Wolfgang Hein, George Kekelidze, Dr. Josep Puig, Milan Smrz, Prof. Dr. Tanay Sidki Uyar, Stepan A. Kudrya

1. Welcome
2. Overview by Prof. Droge
3. EUROSOLAR’s international activities and member
   • New Sections (Netherlands Frank)
   • Planned activities for the future (all=)
   • European membership
4. Support of WCRE
5. Strategic workshop: Regenerative Decade
   • Introduction
   • Brainstorm
   • Promotion
6. How to support each other
7. Miscellaneous
BOARD OF EURO SOLAR E.V.

PRESIDENT

PROF. PETER DROEGE DI TUM MAAS MIT

VICE PRESIDENTS

ELIANA CANGELLI (Italy)
WOLFGANG HEIN (Austria)
DR. JOSEP PUIG I BOIX (Spain)
STEPHAN GRÜGER, MDL (Germany)
DR. FABIO LONGO (Germany)

TREASURER

DR.-ING. BRIGITTE SCHMIDT (Germany)
ROSA HEMMERS (Germany)
PROF. DR. TANAY SIDKI UYAR (Turkey)
MILAN SMRZ (Czech Republic)
WERA TSCHEKORSKY ORLOFF (Germany)

HONORARY PRESIDENT

DR. HERMANN SCHEER (†) 1944–2010

HONORARY MEMBERS OF BOARD

IRM SCHEER-PONTENAGEL (Germany)
PREBEN MAEGAARD (Denmark) (†) 1935–2021
FRANCESCA SARTOGO (Italy)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SECTION GERMANY

In compliance with the Covid rules, this year’s general meeting on October 10 could fortunately take place in the usual presence. The general meeting was opened at 10 a.m. by Dr. Axel Berg, Chairman of the Board of EUROSOlar Germany. Axel Berg first gave an overview of the events on the energy policy level of the last two years and stated that the inactivity of our governments is no longer acceptable. In addition, with regard to the political permanent blockade of the energy turnaround, he emphasized that “the work and the most extensive possible influence of EUROSOlar on politics and society remain correct and important”. In this context, it is also no longer sufficient to merely demand what is politically feasible. “We must insist that the excuse that more is not politically feasible because the voters don’t want it after all no longer applies to the energy transition. The population is ripe for a radical turnaround.” Afterwards Rosa Hemmers, deputy chair of EUROSOlar Germany, and Niklas Hausemann presented the report of the head office and the German section. Looking back, they reported on past events, publications, public relations work, and the development of membership and finances. In the subsequent discussion, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Methling emphasized with regard to the development in the expansion of renewable energies that “we should be dissatisfied, but not pessimistic.” Furthermore, the future presentation of EUROSOlar was also discussed and especially how younger generations could be addressed.

Afterwards the new board of EUROSOlar was elected. Among familiar faces are now also a few new ones. Dr. Axel Berg remains chairman, Stephan Grüger, Rosa Hemmers, Dr. Fabio Longo and Dr. Brigitte Schmidt continue as deputies. Other members are Krisztina André, Ines Bresler, Stefan Gsänger, Vincent Kühn, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Methling and Beate Petersen. Together they are a strong team with expertise in different fields, united by their commitment to a decentralized and citizen-oriented energy transition. Towards the end of the members’ meeting, the “Resolution on the formation of a government in 2021: Now is the time to take off for renewables” was adopted.

MEETINGS

March 3
The first board meeting of the German section of EUROSOlar took place in the nationwide lockdown as a video conference. It was thematized that the management of the Corona pandemic takes a back seat to the energy transition. Strategic preparations are made for the election year 2021.

June 10
The meeting acknowledges the historic judgment handed down against the Shell oil company in The Hague, but at the same time highlights the fact that politicians continue to put on the brakes, delaying the energy transition and passing on costs incurred as a result to poorer people. Further topics are the preparation of a federal election campaign, the conception and continuation of event formats and the personnel development of EUROSOlar.

August 23
Axel Berg, Chairman of EUROSOlar Germany, criticizes that the Bundestag election is being “hyped” as a climate election, but that the major emission reduction targets are to be postponed until after 2030. EUROSOlar speaks out with the campaign “Scarce are not the renewable energies, scarce is the time”. Further topics are the preparation of the general meeting and the German Solar Award 2021 in Bonn.

October 10
After the general meeting, the newly elected board constitutes itself and discusses the further procedure.

December 18
The first regular meeting of the newly elected board discusses how EUROSOlar should strategically position itself in the coming years and which formats EUROSOlar should try out. Another important topic is the staffing of the office.
EUROSOLAR AUSTRIA
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The Austrian section was founded in 1989 and started the Solar Prize with the European Solar Prize events in Vienna in 1994 and 1995 and organized national events every year since then. In 2017, we organized the European Solar Prize again in Vienna. We have a monthly open club meeting called “Solarstammtisch”. We try to have representatives from all parliamentary groups on our board.

We are particularly pleased that the federal government has reaffirmed the goal of covering 100 percent of Austria’s electricity consumption from renewables (on a national balance sheet basis) by 2030. This requires a much faster expansion of photovoltaics and wind power in particular. An important step is certainly the early concretization and implementation of the recently adopted Renewable Energy Expansion Act through appropriate ordinances. The strengthening of rail-bound public transport, the e-mobility offensive and, finally, the thermal renovation of buildings are very important further cornerstones of the strategy.

EUROSOLAR BULGARIA
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The Czech section sees its main task in the promotion of renewable energy in the Czech society. It organizes lectures, exhibitions and ecological trainings in its nature center as well as political negotiations. It also cooperates with some industrial companies and promotes renewable energy in development cooperation.

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EUROSOLAR Italia is the Italian section of EUROSOLAR, which is affiliated with Legambiente. Since its foundation in 1991, it has been working to promote solar energy, renewable energy and energy saving practices. The Italian section of EUROSOLAR is active at national and international level to promote a change in energy policies and strategies. It gathers experts, professionals, operators and technicians in an effort to change the territorial and urban growth process in an ecological way. The association organizes courses, conferences, seminars and workshops and writes, edits and disseminates papers and research.
EUROSOLAR LUXEMBOURG

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EUROSOLAR Lëtzebuerg asbl was founded in 2002. The agreement, extended for another 3 years until 2020 and financially supported by the Ministry of Environment, aims to shape the cooperation between EUROSOLAR Lëtzebuerg asbl and the Luxembourg government with the objective of sustainable development of the renewable energy sector in general and solar energy in particular in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, in line with national objectives in the field of climate change mitigation and renewable energy development.

Activities in 2021 included:
- Participation in the PV follows function project.
- Analysis of statistical data on the evolution of installed capacity.
- Participation/launch of an AgroPV project.
- Organization of / participation in conferences with stakeholders, government, etc.
- Preparation of documents on various topics such as: Flat rate tariffs, new prosumer law, optimization of self-consumption/ intelligent consumption management, Power Partage Agreements (PPAs),...
- Other video clips and podcasts on various topics related to renewable energy sources.
- Creation of informational materials on the future/second life of photovoltaic panels, after the expiration of the buy-back contract after 20 years.
- Creation and updating of information sheets for individuals, professionals and cooperatives.

EUROSOLAR NETHERLANDS

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EUROSOLAR Netherlands hosted this year’s European Solar Prize 2020/21 award ceremony. It was planned as a festive event with live broadcasting in the very representative De Waag (former scale house of the city of Amsterdam) in Amsterdam on 2 December. Due to the pandemic, the award ceremony then took place online only.
EUROSOLAR RUSSIA
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EUROSOLAR SPAIN AND CHAPTER CATALONIA
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The Spanish section of EURO SOLAR was founded in Barcelona and registered in the Register of Associations of the Ministry of the Interior of the Spanish Government on November 5, 1999. The Spanish Section organized the Spanish Solar Awards from 2002 to 2016. The Spanish section is dormant out of solidarity with the Catalan people.

EUROSOLAR TURKEY
Prof. Dr. Tanay Sidki Uyar
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Founded in 2002, the Turkish section brings together ideas, efforts and studies in various activities in line with EURO SOLAR’s objectives to develop a long-term overall energy strategy to prepare the transition to renewable energy sources in Turkey. EURO SOLAR Turkey represents WVEA (World Wind Energy Association) in Turkey and participates in the Clean Energy Platform, which includes several national and local institutions, and in the Environmental Platform of Turkey, which includes more than 200 organizations dealing with environmental issues. EURO SOLAR Turkey organized several conferences and seminars in different locations in Turkey to raise awareness about renewable energy.

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## FINANCES

EUROSOLAR e.V. was financed in 2021 from membership fees and donations.

### Annual budget for the year 2021 (in €, rounded to 1,000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE 2021</th>
<th>241,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership fees</td>
<td>119,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>19,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income from events</td>
<td>47,000</td>
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<td>Public relations/campaigns</td>
<td>6,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income (sales tax, rent, PV feed-in)</td>
<td>50,000</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE 2021</th>
<th>195,000</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel costs</td>
<td>113,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office, rent, material costs, communication</td>
<td>48,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>External costs of events</td>
<td>16,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public relations/campaigns</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenditure (VAT, fees)</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SALDO 2021                     | 46,000   |

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 consequences of the pandemic also restricted the association’s activities in 2021. It was not possible to carry out comprehensive activities - as was usual in previous years and urgently necessary in view of the political and energy industry developments. Events in particular are an essential activity to get in contact with members, other groups in society and in the economy as well as in the political environment and to work towards the implementation of EURO SOLAR’s goals.

The few 2021 activities were also largely conducted virtually. This leads to lower revenues due to the elimination of most of the participation fees, but also to savings on the expenditure side.

Thus, the 2021 budget had a lower overall volume. Nevertheless, it can be said that the consequences of the pandemic have been overcome so far, short-time work was no longer necessary.

Income from membership fees decreased slightly in 2021, but is still the largest item and secures the operation of the office in Bonn. Thanks to the generous financial support for a communication project and the European Solar Prize by the C&U Baumeister Foundation for Sustainable Technology and the EnergieAgentur.NRW for the German Solar Prize and the IRES Symposium, the staff could be maintained. A larger donation from an inheritance and other donations also contributed to the fact that a positive annual result could be achieved despite the low income from events.

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 SOLAR-ZEITALTER, which was published twice a year in 2021, and the English-language digital publication EURO SOLAR TIMES. The advertising campaign carried out in other years with federal elections with specially raised funds could not be carried out due to a lack of personnel capacity. It would otherwise have been reflected on the revenue side, but also on the expenditure side. This is because all the funds raised were also used for advertisements.

At the end of 2020, four staff members were employed by EURO SOLAR e.V., each in individual part-time arrangements. In addition, one internship position was filled by 2 interns during the year, and two student assistants strengthened the team.

Events will be offered again in 2022, if possible due to pandemic developments. New event formats are being worked on in order to continue to be present in this way in the future and to actively intervene in the political dialogue, but also to generate income for the association.
Outlook

The year 2021 has also shown that EURO SOLAR’s goals are far from being achieved and that further ambitious commitment is needed on the way to the solar age. While the share of renewables in energy consumption is steadily increasing in Germany and Europe, more political will is needed to achieve the fully renewable energy system and thus the climate targets in time. On the other hand, the year ended with one of the biggest greenwashing schemes ever seen in the EU: the classification of natural gas and nuclear power as „green energy” in the EU taxonomy for sustainable investments.

EURO SOLAR is needed more than ever. With grassroots publications, legal and institutional innovations, policy tools and events, EURO SOLAR has been advocating for a rapid turnaround to the ecological solar age since 1988, and will tighten the reins once again in 2022 to reach new audiences and recruit new members. While 2021 was already the second Corona-impacted year, making many activities difficult for EURO SOLAR, we look forward with hope to a successful 2022.

At the end of the year, we would also like to express our sincere thanks on behalf of EURO SOLAR to our loyal members, who make an important contribution to the success of our work as well as to the preservation of 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/spenden

www.eurosolar.de