

Action Plan: New Energy for Europe

June 2010



IDEIAS JOVENS PARA A
EUROPA

GIOVANI IDEE PER
L'EUROPA

EVROPA OČIMA
MLADÝCH

JÓVENES IDEAS PARA
EUROPA

YOUNG IDEAS FOR
EUROPE

МЛАДИ ИДЕИ ЗА
ЕВРОПА

JAUNAS IDEJAS
EIROPĀI

MŁODZI MYŚLA DLA
EUROPY

VÄRSKED IDEED
EUROOPALE

UNGES IDÉES OM
EUROPA

MLADE IDEJE ZA
EVROPO

EURÓPA OČAMI
MLADÝCH

JUGEND DENKT
EUROPA

EURÓPA FIATAL
SZEMMEL

DES JEUNES IDÉES POUR
L'EUROPE

The *Young Ideas for Europe* Action Plan 2009/2010

We, the *Young Ideas for Europe* participants, demand action to secure the future of energy in Europe. New energy policies are necessary, especially with the threat of climate change. As youth from across Europe, we are key stakeholders in these decisions – we will be affected in the future by the decisions made today. This Action Plan 2009/2010 was developed through project weeks in which some 1,000 young Europeans spoke with experts and politicians about our ideas for Europe's energy future. We are delivering these ideas to key decision-makers who have the ability to take on our proposals.

1. Access to renewable energy sources for all EU citizens

- a. EU countries should produce more energy using alternative technologies and different renewable energy sources, such as sun, wind and water. An option for this could be the building of a large-scale solar energy plant which can support the energy needs of 55.000.000 European citizens.
- b. There should be an increase in the proportion of alternative power plants, especially those which can provide a stable electricity supply (e.g. geothermal, hydroelectric, tidal).
- c. Both fossil fuels and nuclear power plants should be phased out as soon as possible and the decision should be legally binding.
- d. Investments in renewable energy should be made easier and bureaucracy reduced.
- e. The energy companies should make it easier for customers to know where their energy comes from, offering complete environmentally friendly electricity packages to consumers and strive towards 100% renewable generation/supply.

2. An EU energy system with a safe and largely independent energy supply

- a. The use of renewable energy supplies should be adjusted to local conditions in different European countries in order to be most efficient.
- b. The safety of existing nuclear power plants should be improved through research and development in order to safeguard from environmental catastrophes - today and in the future. This includes finding an ultimate solution for safe nuclear waste management.

- c. The more energy produced within the EU, the more independent the system can become from external sources, for example from gas from Russia. Tax benefits should be given to those countries which develop and use clean energy.

3. Affordable energy and more investments throughout the EU

- a. There should be investments in technologies based on renewable sources (hydro, solar etc.), as well as in education as detailed in § 5.
- b. High taxes should be imposed on electricity that comes from fossil energy sources or nuclear power plants. In addition, the taxes on electricity from renewable energy sources should be low or non-existent.
- c. Companies that are energy self-sufficient or that generate renewable energy for their and others' use should be rewarded financially by the EU. Tax incentives should be introduced for eco-friendly companies.
- d. An *Institute of Alternative Energy Research* should be established which is funded by all EU countries. It should support EU countries by building renewable energy plants nationally, suitable to local conditions and using available natural resources. The energy from the plants will be distributed to countries according to their needs. Furthermore, the Institute will function as a cluster for energy researchers from all over Europe – this will bring scientists and experts from all kinds of different sector and disciplines together in order to develop new solutions that they would not have thought of if they were working separately.

A “social energy fund” should also be established. It should subsidise research (e.g. how to use renewable energy sources more efficiently) – but without passing those additional costs on to consumers.

- e. Greater stability in the European domestic energy market should be secured by improving partnerships between government and private enterprises.

4. Emissions from energy production and use should be decreased in order to protect the climate and the environment

- a. Innovative rules and measures should be applied in close dialogue with environmental organisations. These should include charges and taxes on CO₂ emissions. The EU should also develop the emission trading scheme further, with harsher sanctions for those companies and countries producing a high amount of CO₂ emissions.
- b. Raise taxes for cars with high CO₂ emissions.

The EU should use the money from these measures for policies to tackle climate change.

5. Transform citizens' energy use

- a. A limit on the electricity supply to every household should be introduced, depending on the number of people in that household. A certain amount of electricity would be sold and available at a low price. If a household uses more than this allocated amount, they would have to pay higher prices.
- b. All new houses built will be "zero-energy houses" with solar panels on every roof. Households should be supported financially when building new houses and renovating old ones in order to make them energy efficient.
- c. The EU should conduct an EU-wide campaign on energy saving, helping citizens take action.
- d. Energy issues should be introduced in the field of education policy all over Europe: Energy issues should be part of school curricula starting in the 8th grade and into higher education so as to encourage young people to become more responsible in their energy use. At the same time, awareness of differences between the economic conditions in developing and developed countries should be encouraged. Co-operation between schools and enterprises in the field on energy and climate should be supported.
- e. The EU should connect European citizens through cultural exchanges as a way in which to get more people behind their energy (saving) plans and concepts. Like this EU citizens can support and contribute to energy saving.
- f. Economic incentives should be introduced and consistently used throughout the EU: Electricity bills should be increased so as to reduce energy use, climate taxes should be introduced, a tax based on the sustainability of a product or a service should also be introduced etc. to help change citizens' behaviour.

6. Increase the efficiency of energy use

- a. Reduce energy use by 5% every year until it is reduced by at least 40%.
- b. Boost eco-friendly companies (tax breaks, grants for "going green" etc).
- c. Conduct more research in developing energy-effective products, including household appliances, transport, industry and recycling.
- d. The EU should set up government-mandated energy efficiency mandates using the "top runner" approach. This approach improves the average energy efficiency of future products to levels above the level of the currently most energy-efficient products available on the market (example set by Japan's Energy Conservation Act).
- e. Public buildings should, when possible, be reconstructed into energy independent solar buildings.

7. Develop and support sustainable mobility options

- a. Transport and energy policy should be combined by improving transport efficiency. Public transport and sustainable mobility should be supported by lowering taxes for transport companies, especially those with eco-friendly projects.
- b. Expand the traffic-free zones in towns and cities – cars should be taken out of the city with exceptions for heavy goods transport. Bikes that anyone can borrow for free as well as free public transport should be made available in larger cities.
- c. Increase investments in new technologies. Buses and cars should be run on electricity or biogas. Investments should be made to develop new fuels and produce magnetically operated and electric cars. Tax incentives should be introduced for purchasing electric vehicles and for the construction of effective networks to recharge electric cars.
- d. The EU should reduce the number of short-haul flights, especially within Europe, and promote energy-saving transport technologies.

As adopted June 2010 by Young Ideas for Europe participating schools:

Participating schools 2009

<i>Abtei Gymnasium</i>	<i>Duisburg/Germany</i>
<i>Spyken Upper Secondary School</i>	<i>Lund/Sweden</i>
<i>Europaschule Marie & Pierre Curie</i>	<i>Guben/Germany</i>
<i>Goethe Grammar School</i>	<i>Warsaw/Poland</i>
<i>Goethe Gymnasium</i>	<i>Bensheim/Germany</i>
<i>Gymnasium 'Alexander S. Puschkin'</i>	<i>Hennigsdorf/Germany</i>
<i>Gymnasium, Arabská 14</i>	<i>Prague/Czech Republic</i>
<i>Gymnázium Jura Hronca</i>	<i>Bratislava/Slovakia</i>
<i>Kozgazdasagi Politechnikum Gimnazium es Szakkozepiskola</i>	<i>Budapest/Hungary</i>
<i>Lycée Saint Exupéry</i>	<i>Saint Dizier/France</i>
<i>Ostschule - Europaschule Gera</i>	<i>Gera/Germany</i>
<i>Rudolf-Diesel-Schule</i>	<i>Erfurt/Germany</i>
<i>Šolski center Postojna</i>	<i>Postojna/Slovenia</i>
<i>Wilhelm-Focke-Oberschule</i>	<i>Bremen/Germany</i>

Participating schools 2010

<i>St. Paul's CBS</i>	<i>Dublin/Ireland</i>
<i>Merkur Akademie International</i>	<i>Karlsruhe/Deutschland</i>
<i>Escola Secundária Ibn Mucana</i>	<i>Alcabideche/Portugal</i>
<i>Gymnasium am Wirteltor</i>	<i>Düren/Germany</i>
<i>The Lammas School</i>	<i>London/Great Britain</i>
<i>Gymnasium Hamm Europaschule</i>	<i>Hamburg/Germany</i>
<i>Montessori Lyceum Amsterdam</i>	<i>Amsterdam/Netherlands</i>
<i>Berufschulzentrum Stockach</i>	<i>Stockach/Germany</i>
<i>I.E.S. Emérita Augusta</i>	<i>Mérida/Spain</i>
<i>Städtisches Gymnasium Heißen</i>	<i>Mülheim/Germany</i>
<i>Rejsby Europæiske Efterskole</i>	<i>Rejsby/Denmark</i>
<i>Lessing-Gymnasium Lampertheim</i>	<i>Lampertheim/Germany</i>
<i>Gulbenes novada valsts ģimnāzija</i>	<i>Gulbene/Latvia</i>
<i>Wilhelm-Maybach-Schule</i>	<i>Heilbronn/Germany</i>
<i>Liceo Plinio Seniore of Rome</i>	<i>Rome/Italy</i>
<i>Elisabeth-von-Thadden-Schule</i>	<i>Heidelberg/Germany</i>
<i>91 German Language School "Prof. Konstantin Galabov"</i>	<i>Sofia/Bulgaria</i>
<i>Victor Klemperer Kolleg</i>	<i>Berlin/Germany</i>
<i>Tallinna Juudi Kool & Leisi Keskkool</i>	<i>Tallinn/Estonia</i>
<i>Max-Planck-Gymnasium</i>	<i>Ludwigshafen/Germany</i>

The project:

For more information on *Young Ideas for Europe* please visit
www.young-ideas-for-europe.eu

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