

# SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS

A photograph of two women standing next to a large solar panel. The woman on the left has red hair and is wearing a yellow cardigan over a grey shirt and light blue pants. The woman on the right has long black hair and is wearing a grey t-shirt with a blue graphic and dark pants. They are standing in front of a building with grey horizontal siding. The solar panel is dark and mounted on a metal frame.

**CLIMATE COP 19  
NGO VOICES  
FROM "SOUTH"  
AND EUROPE**

**WOMEN  
"SWITCH TO THE SUN"**

# CONTENTS

EDITORIAL p. 2  
The Big Issues:  
Climate & Poverty

CLIMATE COP p. 3

**Climate COP19 - Time for  
Common Understanding**  
- INFORSE-HELIO-AIWC  
Side Event and Exhibition  
16 November, 2013  
- New INFORSE Publication:  
Combining Energy Access  
and Climate Protection

WOMEN THEME pp. 4-7

**Women at UNFCCC COP19**  
- Side Events, Gender Day  
**Women "Switch to the  
Sun" in Eastern Europe**  
**Innovative Financing Helps  
Women Solar Entrepreneurs  
in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania**  
**INFORSE Publication:  
Gender 2001-2012**

SOUTHERN VOICES p. 7  
**INFORSE in Southern  
Voices on Climate Change**

AFRICA: p. 8  
**Young Volunteers Active  
on Energy in Africa**

EUROPE: pp. 9-11  
INFORSE Calling upon EU:  
- INFORSE Europe Push for  
Climate Targets  
- Boilers: EU Ecodesign  
- New Danish NGO Strategy  
- Publication: Transition  
Blueprint for Britain

**News from Members:**  
- European Sustainable Energy  
Award for Prisons  
- Campaign against Lignite,  
Macedonia  
- European Community Power  
Project

**INFORSE-Europe General  
Meeting: 16 Nov. 2013**

**INFORSE in Belarus**  
- Study Tours: North & Central  
Europe /ECSE Project  
- Energy Advisory Office  
Opened in Minsk  
- November 11, 2013 -  
International Day of Energy  
Savings/SPARE

INFORSE MEMBERS p. 12



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## The Big Issues: Climate & Poverty

PHOTO: LIMITS TO GROWTH, 30-YEAR UPDATE,  
PUBLICATION FRONTPAGE

*"Thus, solving the climate problem amounts to a minor restructuring of the economy - This can be done without much difficulty - but only if the voters and rulers actually want to do it ..."* (Jorgen Randers, co-author of *'The Limits to Growth'*, *'Beyond the Limits'* and much more, in *'2052 - A Global Forecast for the Next Forty Years'*, a report to the Club of Rome, 2012.

When Jorgen Randers and colleagues wrote the report *'Limits to Growth'* in 1972, they identified a number of problems for human development. When Jorgen Randers repeated the analysis of future development forty years later, in 2012, he identified **climate change** and **poverty** as the two overriding issues, the two issues that will limit human life for the coming 40 years and beyond. Like many of us, he sees no technological or economic problems in managing to limit climate change, if we want to do it. Unfortunately, he does not see that we **really** want to do it. His above sentence ends **"... only if the voters and rulers actually want to do it, which is rarely the case"**. In his forecast, the societies will manage some reductions of greenhouse gases in the next 40 years, but not enough to keep global warming below 2°C and not enough to rule out self-reinforcing climate change taking off in the second half of the 21st century.

We are faced with the tragic contradiction that global warming is easy to solve, at a cost of minor changes in life styles and maybe 1%-2% of GDP, but that strong powers are blocking these preventive measures from happening.

Fortunately, only a small group of countries will lose from the necessary reductions of global emissions. These are the countries with large reserves of tar sand, large coal export or large expectations of deep

sea or arctic oil. For the vast majority of countries, the investments will pay back quickly not only with a stable climate, but also with more resource-efficient economies, more self-reliance regarding energy, and a stronger, more dynamic sustainable energy sector.

In spite of both short- and long-term benefits, the attempt to solve the global climate problem with a global solution - a global climate agreement - is kept back. Countries are caught in unconstructive negotiating positions, trying to avoid commitments while blaming others for the problems. There is a *lack of trust*, and a *lack of common understanding of a fair distribution of reduction commitments*.

If the climate negotiations are to remain relevant, the *large majorities of countries* that will benefit from climate action, including in the short term, *must realise their long and short term interests and start to act accordingly*. They *must show* that climate-related discussions and actions will *no longer be hijacked by the "fossil interests"*. They *must agree* upon a framework for a *fair* distribution of actions among countries. In doing this, it is crucial that they show *solidarity* with the poorer and the more vulnerable countries and people who increasingly will be hit by damages due to the climate change to which they have *not* contributed.

Gunnar Boye Olesen  
Editor & INFORSE



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www.airclim.org

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Photo on the front page:  
Solar collector built through the project "Switch to the Sun - Live in Comfort".  
See article on page # 5.

Photo is made by Oksana Maiboroda (Ecoclub, Ukraine) at the Ecological Center of the Republic of Buryatia, Russia.

# Climate COP19 - Time for Common Understanding



COP19/CMP9  
UNITED NATIONS  
CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE  
WARSAW 2013



The 19th United Nation's climate conference, UNFCCC COP19, to be held in Warsaw, November 11-22, 2013, should be a key event in the effort to reach a global climate agreement, to be finalised in 2015.

COP19 can be the place to build a common understanding of how we share the global challenges of reducing emissions to sustainable levels. In spite of obvious, huge long-term benefits of emission reductions, the changes require political will, which requires a common understanding.

Thus, the negotiations at COP19 must embrace the issue of an equitable distribution of actions. It is probably the most needed outcome of COP19.

INFORSE will follow a range of issues at COP19, also including the development of the institutions for transfer of climate technologies.

The climate negotiations and the new Climate Technology Center and Network must take up local sustainable energy solutions as well as mandate environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the technologies and solutions proposed for transfer.

Too often, technology transfers have led to huge environmental problems that can be avoided with appropriate and timely EIAs.

**More: [www.inforse.org/europe/conf13\\_COP19.htm](http://www.inforse.org/europe/conf13_COP19.htm)**



**INFORSE  
HELIO - AIWC  
UNFCCC COP19  
Side Event:  
November 18  
(Monday)  
16.45 - 18.15**

**New Solutions of  
Climate Mitigation in  
South & North;  
NGOs' Voices on  
Technology Mechanism**

- New INFORSE Publication
- Smart energy planning
- ZeroCarbonBrittain
- Women's work in India
- Dialogue with the new UN Climate Technology Center.

Speakers from the INFORSE NGO network include: ENDA (Senegal), INSEDA & AIWC (India), CDI (Uganda), Mali FC, VE (Denmark), HELIO International.

**INFORSE - AIWC  
UNFCCC COP19  
Exhibition  
November 11-22**

Sustainable Energy Activities by the INFORSE network and its 165 NGO members . AIWC - All India Women Conference - has 100,000 members in 500 branches in India.



▲ INFORSE Exhibition at COP18 in Doha, Qatar.



▲ INFORSE-WEFC Side event at UNFCCC COP15 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

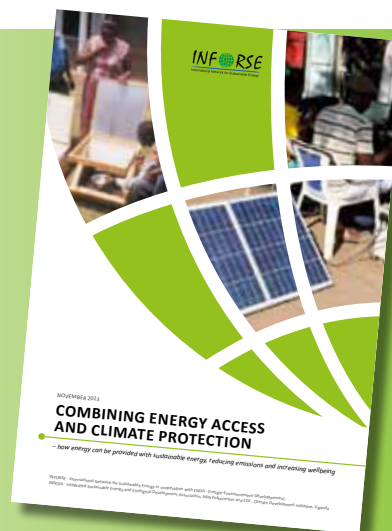
## New INFORSE Publication: Combining Energy Access and Climate Protection

The publication will show:

- how increased energy access to reduce poverty can be combined with climate mitigation.
- how solutions for basic energy uses, such as cooking, light, and cell-phone charging, can be provided with sustainable energy, and explains the emission reductions that come with these solutions.

The publication include analysis, support, and information about investments needed to facilitate dissemination of the new solutions.

In one case, it is shown that even a fossil-fuel solution can reduce emissions: LPG (bottled gas) can reduce emission by replacing unsustainable use of wood, but the case also shows that fossil fuels have other problems in addition to emissions.



**Launch at INFORSE COP19 side-event:  
18 November, 2013 and at [www.inforse.org](http://www.inforse.org).**



## Gender Day - UNFCCC COP19 Side Events

19 Nov. 2013

8:00-10:00 - UNFCCC Presidency Gender Event

11:30-13:00 - UNFCCC Gender & Climate Change: Vision 50/50

16:45-18:15 - WOCAN Women's Carbon Standard

18:30-20:00 - GenderCC Gender at work

20:15-21:45 - WEDO WECF Climate Finance, Gender Equality.

## 18 Nov. 2013

16:45-18:15 AIWC, INFORSE New Solutions, NGO Voices- Women's work in India.

### Read more:

**GenderCC:** [www.gendercc.net](http://www.gendercc.net)

**WECF:** [www.wecf.eu](http://www.wecf.eu)

**WEDO:** [www.wedo.org](http://www.wedo.org)

**ENERGIA:** [www.energia.org](http://www.energia.org)

### INFORSE Gender Theme

#### Contacts at UNFCCC COP19 in

#### Warsaw:

- Judit Szoleczky, INFORSE

- Usha Nair, AIWC

- Zareen Myles, WAFFD

**More:** [www.inforse.org/europe/sen\\_gender.htm](http://www.inforse.org/europe/sen_gender.htm)

# Women at UNFCCC COP19



NGOs focusing on women and gender issues are active in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process and will be present at the 19th Conference (COP19) in Warsaw, Poland.

These efforts will be visible at several side events, exhibition, inter sessional workshops, and intervention by the Women and Gender Constituency.

### Women's Caucus During COP19

Like other civil society constituencies the Women and Gender Constituency will organise daily caucuses, which are open to all observer organisations willing to work with the group.

The woman- and gender issues have a cross-cutting character. It is hoped that openness strengthens the campaign for climate justice, instead of following the process in its narrow focus on technologies and mechanisms.

The **Women and Gender Constituency (WGC)** has been recognised officially by UNFCCC since 2011. The Focal Point is GenderCC. The active groups include *GenderCC*, *LIFE*, *Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF)*, *Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO)*, *Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development*, *ETC Foundation*, *ENERGIA*, and *ICAE*.

### INFORSE and Gender

The constituencies are groupings of the more than 1400 observer civil society organisations admitted to the UNFCCC. These include business, farmers, trade unions, researchers, youth and indigenous groups.

INFORSE and the INFORSE members typically belong to the *Environmental Group (ENGO)*, but some are active in both ENGO and WGC. The key gender actors include LIFE/GenderCC, ENERGIA, AIWC, and WAFFD.

At the **UNFCCC COP19, INFORSE's Side Event** (18th November, 2013) and **Exhibition** will be also organised together with **All India Women Conference (AIWC)** which will make more visible to all the fact that INFORSE, too, is working on gender issues.

AIWC is an NGO that has more than 100,000 members in 500 branches in India. Among its activities are training women to assemble and to install solar lanterns and cookers as well as to use solar fruit dryers.

### Gender in INFORSE Publications

- The publication "*Combining Energy Access and Climate Protection*" to be launched at the INFORSE-AIWC UNFCCC COP19 Side Event includes several cases with women focus.

- "*Gender 2001-2012*" in Sustainable Energy News. See publications reviewed on page 3 and 7.

# Women "Switch to the Sun" in Eastern Europe

## Energy Access - Empowerment

Harnessing the power of the sun is a way for women and men in different parts of Ukraine, Georgia and other countries to gain empowerment. Access to energy resources can be difficult or problematic.

In the Manevichi region in Western Ukraine, wood can be radioactively contaminated, but there are no any other accessible alternatives to firewood.

In Georgia and Ukraine, many people face the problem of energy poverty, which leads to illegal logging.

Therefore, some years ago, WECF and partners developed frost-resistant solar collectors, which provide warm water for rural and remote households.

## Gender-Sensitive Training

Currently, an extensive training programme is being conducted by WECF partners, with qualified trainer pairs of one man and one woman each from different communities. The trainings are conducted in a gender-sensitive and gender-balanced way.

Parallel workshops address the different responsibilities women and men usually have (solar-collector construction for the men; managing the household budget as well as managing and monitoring the equipment for the women), but also encouraging the trainees to switch or to share these traditional roles.

## Women Solar Owners

In Georgia women have become the biggest supporters of sustainable technologies, which have a positive impact on their labour burden, income, and quality of life. Women are usually the ones who spend time gathering firewood and taking care of household chores.

Currently, the overwhelming majority of solar collectors and other devices installed belong to women, who initiate their acquisition for household needs.

## Capacity-Building Project

The training program on solar collectors is part of a capacity-building project called "Switch to the Sun – Live in Comfort" supported by Europe Aid in 2011-14.

*The Partners* are Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) and the French organisation GERES.

- In Georgia: The Greens Movement of Georgia, Rural Communities Development Agency (RCDA), Social Development Center Akhaltsikhe, and SEMA.

- In Ukraine: Ecoclub, National Ecological Center of Ukraine and Vidrodzhennia.

Many of the partner organisations are also members of INFORSE.

*The Project* is up-scaled with 9 sub grants to NGOs in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, and Russia.



▲ Solar collector construction and maintenance training in Russia, which are part of the up-scaling of the project with subgrants in 2013. The trainings in Russia (Buryatia and Sverdlovsk region) were conducted by Oksana Maiboroda from the Ukrainian NGO partner Ecoclub.

**Authors: Sabine Bock and Chantal van Den Bossche from WECF and Nino Gamisonia from RCDA, Georgia.**  
**More: [www.wecf.eu](http://www.wecf.eu).**

# Innovative Financing Helps Women Solar Entrepreneurs in Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania



▲ VSLA cluster in Homa Bay County, Kenya during demonstration of solar lanterns and improved cookstoves.

PHOTO: NOZIPHO WRIGHT, ENERGIA.

**Women are engaged to be sellers and distributors of clean cook stoves and solar lanterns/lamps in an ambitious project called “wPOWER” implemented by CARE USA in Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda in 2012-15.**

Over **3,000 women entrepreneurs** are expected to be trained and assisted to launch small-scale renewable energy businesses. The training includes clean energy product awareness, sales and marketing strategies. It also addresses social and economic empowerment issues. The overall target is to facilitate the distribution of **180,000 solar lamps and 28,000 clean cook stoves over a period of 3 years.**

The Project builds on CARE’s existing ‘Access Africa’ program, which has established **Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)** that provide **3.7 million women** in Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond with a basic suite of financial services to improve their lives and livelihoods. The project gives new life to the VSLA’s, as in the past, the members struggled to identify viable enterprises in which to invest their group funds.

**Read more:**

[www.care.org](http://www.care.org)

[www.energia.org](http://www.energia.org)

A market study by ENERGIA, an INFORSE member organisation, reports several interesting findings:

- **The lack of awareness is the major cause for low uptake of clean-energy options among poor populations located in remote locations.** In general, people use fuelwood, charcoal and other inferior fuels and technologies, not out of choice or for any specific cultural reason, but because they are simply not aware of alternatives such as better improved cooking stoves and solar lanterns available in the market. Therefore, a widespread information campaign on the benefits and prices of these technologies can make a big difference; e.g., through roadshows, community forums and radio media.
- **There is evident desire among poor communities to shift from current cooking and lighting practices and to adopt clean technologies.** Complaints about smoke from fuelwood and kerosene lamps, along with the scarcity of fuelwood in some areas and the high costs of fuelwood and kerosene, are likely to motivate a large number of VSLA members towards switching to solar lanterns and improved cookstoves. This will be true especially as they have access to savings and credit through the VSLAs to help them purchase the products.
- **The savings and loan associations have huge potential for effective financing of clean energy and other products.** The members in the 3 countries represent an estimated 1 million people. Use of VSLAs can be combined with supplier’s credit. Franchisee networks are advised for reaching the last-mile distributors to the poor rural households in areas that are difficult to reach because they have no proper roads.

*Authors: Nozipho Wright from ENERGIA and Sophie Chitedze, “wPower” Project leader from CARE USA.*

*The Project “Partnership on Women’s Entrepreneurship in Renewables” (wPOWER) is supported by the U.S. Department of State.*

**VSLAs (Village Savings and Loan Associations)** are community-managed groups of about 15 to 30 members, predominantly women, who meet regularly to save and borrow from their pooled savings. VSLAs often have a “social fund”, a sort of insurance vehicle to help members with emergency needs. Once a year, the VSLAs return the cumulative savings to the members in a share out, providing them with useful lump sums that they use to invest in various income-earning opportunities and enterprises. At that point, members elect new officers, invite new people into the group, and often make a special savings contribution to recapitalize the group’s funds for the new cycle.

**Village Agents (mostly women)** who are identified to be distributors of the clean-energy devices are rural people from the area, usually selected from among the members of existing mature VSLA groups. They receive special training as trainers, qualifying them to train and to support new VSLAs on a fee-for-service basis paid by group members based on agreed terms.

INFORSE Publication:

# Gender 2001-2012

Compilation of Articles on Gender, Climate & Energy  
Published in Sustainable Energy News, 2013.

Edited by Judit Szoleczky, INFORSE. 78 pages.

INFORSE has published articles on gender issues since 2001. The articles are collected into chapters according to themes.

The publication includes inputs from several INFORSE members active on gender issues, e.g., ENERGIA, Life e.V (Germany), MAMA86 (Ukraine), CRT (Nepal), Grameen Shakti (Bangladesh), WAFD (India) and AIWC (India). INFORSE also closely cooperates with thematic networks like WECF.

More: [www.inforse.org/europe/sen\\_gender\\_reader.htm](http://www.inforse.org/europe/sen_gender_reader.htm)



The Theme Chapters are:

- EDITORIALS
- UNCSD & RIO
- UN CLIMATE
- PLANNING & POLICY
- EU POLICY
- MICRO CREDIT
- TECHNOLOGY
- ANTI-NUCLEAR
- PUBLICATIONS
- WHO IS WHO ?

## INFORSE in Southern Voices on Climate Change



The three INFORSE regions in Africa and South Asia are now supported by the Southern Voices Programme, to strengthen voices for local sustainable energy in climate and energy debates.

INFORSE West Africa activities have included a capacity-building workshop on participatory tools in the area of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, active participation in a regional climate meeting of CSOs in Guinea, and capacity-building in vulnerability assessment. Also covered was the integration of climate change into local development plans of two districts in Senegal to promote low-carbon development. As part of the plans for 2014 is a regional meeting. The activities are coordinated by ENDA and Mali Folkecenter.

INFORSE East Africa organised a regional meeting, among other activities. Activities are coordinated by CDI, Climate Development Initiative, Uganda.

INFORSE-South Asia organised a meeting of the national INFORSE focal points in August 2013 together with CAN - South Asia. The focal points agreed to follow domestic climate policies, monitor implementation of policies, collect and compile success stories, work towards intergovernmental convergence programs, and engage in dialogues with stakeholders, as well as to share insights gained from experience amongst CSO's and members. They are planning national workshops to discuss fundraising, limitations in implementation of climate change policies, and renewable-energy projects. Activities are coordinated by INSEDA, India.

The Southern Voices Programme also supports INFORSE participation in COP19 and the publication presented on page 3. INFORSE regions' participation is coordinated by SustainableEnergy in Denmark, while the entire Southern Voices Programme is coordinated by CARE Denmark and supported by DANIDA, the Danish International Development Aid.

◀ Regional Meeting of National Focal Points of INFORSE South Asia together with CAN-South Asia in India, 2013.

### Southern Voices on Climate Change

UNFCCC COP19  
Side Event:  
19 Nov 2013  
11:30-13:00

Southern Advocacy and Campaign Experiences.



Read more:

[www.climatecapacity.org](http://www.climatecapacity.org)  
[www.inforse.org/asia](http://www.inforse.org/asia)  
[www.inforse.org/africa](http://www.inforse.org/africa)



▲ Solar lantern workshop by JVE in Vo in Togo.

## Young Volunteers Active on Energy in Africa



▲ Producing an improved cooking stove during a training of a women group.

### Education on Energy in Cameroon

The level of poverty contrasts sharply with the technically possible potential of renewable energy in Cameroon.

The majority of Cameroonians do not have access to basic energy services. Electricity in this country is a luxury that only the privileged and few large cities can afford.

To bridge the gap, the “**Young Volunteers for the Environment (JVE) - Cameroon**”, initiated an energy education program within the “*Clean Energy for Africa*” (CLENA) project framework.

This project aims to develop among the young people a greater awareness of the environment and

of the high importance of protecting it. This is done by applying theory and practice, information on new sustainable energy technologies, and on the employment opportunities in the field.

The method includes organizing practical demonstrations of the technologies, visiting renewable-energy companies, holding competitions in schools, and first producing, then disseminating educational programs tailored for the youth. Through this project, about 150 students from 5 secondary schools (one group of 30 students per school) were educated and trained directly during this school year. Educating children also multiplies the audience of the message, when the happy children pass along what they have learned about renewables to their family (parents, acquaintances, friends, etc.).

**JVE in 22 Africa Countries - International Young Volunteers for the Environment (JVE)** was started by students in Togo in the 2000s. Since then it has been developed into a recognized NGO, and has become known internationally. It has branches in about 22 African countries.

JVE involves young volunteers in environmental issues. The youthful enthusiasm characterises their activities like campaigns, and trainings of other young people, e.g., building and using efficient biomass ovens, assembling solar lamps, and promoting these on exhibitions.

JVE also delegates participants to international events, e.g. to the UNFCCC COP19 in Warsaw in 2013.

JVE is member of INFORSE. The CLENA project's supportive NGO partner is another INFORSE member, Norges Naturvernforbund (FoE Norway). The financial support for the Project is from Norad in 2012-16.

Source: Sena Alouka, JVE, Togo.  
More: [www.jve-international.org](http://www.jve-international.org)  
[www.jvecameroun.blogspot.dk](http://www.jvecameroun.blogspot.dk)



# INFORSE-Europe Calling upon EU

## INFORSE-Europe Push for Ambitious 2030 Climate Targets

At least 50% renewable energy and at least 70%-lower greenhouse gases in 2030 than in 1990. That is what INFORSE-Europe is calling for. INFORSE-Europe has also shown that this is indeed possible, if strong energy efficiency is implemented using existing technologies.

The EU Commission has included in its Roadmap for moving to a low-carbon economy the goal of a 40% reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2030. It is important that the EU countries raise the EU's ambitions beyond this when the EU leaders discuss future targets in the spring of 2014.

**More:** [www.inforse.org/europe](http://www.inforse.org/europe)

## Boilers: EU Ecodesign Boosts Efficiency, but Faces Lack of Ambition

INFORSE-Europe is following the development of EU's Ecodesign regulations that set requirements for energy use and other environmental parameters. While an increasing number of regulations are in place, we need to push harder to continue to raise the standards. This year has seen the adoption of requirements and energy labels for boilers, heat pumps, water heaters and others. These should have been followed by regulation of solid fuel boilers and local heaters.

Unfortunately, the EU countries could not agree to set ambitious energy-efficiency and air-pollution limits for wood and coal boilers nor for ovens, a proposal that could have strongly limited the local pollution problems from these sources throughout EU. They did

agree, however, on energy-efficiency limits, though not ambitious, for electric and gas heaters. They also agreed to energy labelling of wood and coal boilers, and of wood, coal and gas ovens for space heating. Not only heating efficiency is hit by lack of ambition: the EU Commission has started a discussion on the reduction of a proposed energy-efficiency requirements of lamps, allowing also less efficient halogen lamps to stay on the market.

The framework for the Ecodesign work, the Ecodesign Directive, is also up for discussion, and proposals for amendments are expected in 2014, with preparatory work ongoing.

INFORSE-Europe follows the Ecodesign work together with other NGOs in Coolproducts Coalition supported by the European Climate Foundation.

**More:** [www.coolproducts.eu](http://www.coolproducts.eu)

## New Danish NGO Strategy for Fast Transition by 2030

The Danish NGO SustainableEnergy has started a new project on how Denmark can turn to renewable energy by 2030, following the INFORSE sustainable-energy visions. The results will be available in spring 2014.

If realised, by 2030 Denmark will use 100% domestic renewable energy resources, will have a strong emphasis on energy efficiency, will have large-scale smart-grid solutions, and will use hydrogen as a new energy carrier.



**More:** [www.inforse.org/europe/Vision2050.htm](http://www.inforse.org/europe/Vision2050.htm) and [www.ve.dk](http://www.ve.dk)

## Publication: Transition Blueprint for Britain

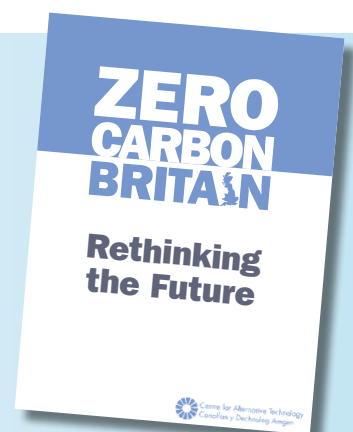
The new report "Zero Carbon Britain: Rethinking the Future" draws on the Centre for Alternative Technology's 40 years of experience to create a technologically viable future scenario that outlines a shift from fossil fuels with the urgency demanded by current climate-change science.

Bringing together the latest knowledge from a wide range of disciplines, it explores synergies that create employment, increase well-being and re-boot the economy, all without relying on promises of future technology, but rather, using what exists now.

By making changes to our buildings, transport systems and behaviour, and by investing in a variety of renewable-energy-generation technologies suited to the UK (without a nuclear component), we can provide a reliable zero-carbon energy supply.

The most recent scenario integrates new research in two key areas - 'keeping the lights on' with a variable renewable energy supply, and 'feeding ourselves properly' on a low-carbon diet.

**More:** [www.zerocarbonbritain.com](http://www.zerocarbonbritain.com)



# News from Members

## European Sustainable Energy Award for Prisons: - E-SEAP

Reducing the energy consumption of prisons is the aim of a new Europe-wide project coordinated by Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA), an INFORSE member organisation in the UK. Prisons are an unusual target

▼ Prison participating in the E-SeaP Project in Cardiff, South Wales, UK.



for the first look, but actually, because the prisons are used constantly, they use more energy than other types of buildings, and the savings potentials are relatively big. It is estimated that a 15% energy savings is achievable within the project period.

The participating prisons are offered assessment and the support needed to reduce their energy consumptions. After the assessment of the buildings, energy management tools and training are offered. In addition community outreach activities support staff as well as the offenders' families, the latter of which represent a fuel-poverty risk group. The successful prisons receive an award mark (similar to e.g., "Blue Flag Beach") that aims to give their achievement international status and quality.

SWEA's partners are engineering institutes, universities and the UK Prison Service. The 17 prisons are in the UK, Ireland, Croatia, Latvia, Malta, Slovenia, and Greece. The Project runs until 2014 and is co-financed by Intelligent Energy Europe Program of the European Union.

Contact: Rachel Close, SWEA, E-SeaP Coordinator.  
E: Rachel@swea.co.uk, www.e-seap.eu



## Campaign against Lignite, Macedonia

The Macedonian energy strategy is heavily based on coal and almost completely overlooks the possibilities for using the solar and wind energy which is abundant in Macedonia.

A new plan is to open an underground lignite mine in the area of Mariovo, which is one of the most preserved picturesque regions with untouched nature, beautiful landscapes and traditional architecture. Presently there is a media campaign for the lignite-fired thermo plant and mine, which is locking valuable financing (e.g. EBRD), which could otherwise be used for sustainable energy developments.

Eko-svest, an environmental organisation from Macedonia and a member of INFORSE Europe, is campaigning against this investments. Eko-svest promotes instead investments in renewable energy sources and energy efficiency for which there is a vast potential in Macedonia.

Share experiences, support and join the campaign!

Contact: Juliana Daskalov, Eko-svest, Macedonia. E: julijana@ekosvest.com.mk  
www.ekosvest.com.mk

**INFORSE-Europe  
General Meeting  
16 November  
2013 (Saturday)  
Warsaw, Poland**

Read more:  
[www.inforse.org/europe](http://www.inforse.org/europe)

PHOTO: BDCR.ORG.UK



## European Community Power Project

NOAH, member of INFORSE and Friends of the Earth, has started an EU supported project with partners from 12 countries to build a broad, public coalition across Europe supportive of community owned renewable energy projects, and to speed up the development of renewables.

Contact: Henning Madsen, NOAH, FoE Denmark.  
More: [www.communitypower.eu](http://www.communitypower.eu)

◀ Community owned wind turbine in Dyfi valley, Wales, UK.

# INFORSE in Belarus

## Study Tours: North and Central Europe

The NGO cooperation Project called ECSE started with two study tours from Belarus to Northern and Central Europe in May and August, 2013. The main aims were to learn about existing technologies and local energy planning as well as about the roles of municipalities and NGOs in this process.

The technologies included wood chip, biogas, straw, and waste used for local district heating as well as, in some cases, for heat and power generation; solar energy used for local district heating and swimming pools; photovoltaic technologies used to generate electricity; thermal renovations of buildings; and heat pumps.

Denmark and Sweden provided insights into climate-/energy-planning, where the installations are part of the plans and strategies of substantially reducing energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2030. There are public hearings of the planning processes and NGOs are involved.

In Central Eastern Europe (Poland, Slovakia and Hungary), lower-income areas were visited, where there are less or no money to invest, and unemployment is high. In these areas, EU structural and social funds brings opportunities to contribute to sustainable-energy-related investments improving both the environment and the economy.

Energy-efficiency measures and use of renewable energy decrease energy consumption, which means lower energy bills and less pollution from burning fossil fuels.

Quick pay-back solutions are insulation of houses, changing to efficient windows, installation of light sensors, efficient ovens and switching from natural gas to straw and waste wood.

The 10-13 participants of each tour were from municipalities from three regions, Shuchin, Pukhovichi, and Braslav, and from national NGOs.

Read more: [www.inforse.org/europe/ECSE.htm](http://www.inforse.org/europe/ECSE.htm)

## Energy Advisory Office Opened in Minsk

An information office for sustainable energy opened at the Centre of Environmental Solutions (CES) in Minsk in June 2013. Here people can get free advice by telephone or in person. It is organised following the good experiences from similar advice offices in Sweden and Denmark. Among the plans are to establish a website as well as to update and to run an existing mobile exhibition.

INFORSE-Europe is a partner in this project, "Advice" that is led by Skåne Energy Agency (SEA) in Sweden and is supported by SIDA.

Read more: [www.inforse.org/europe/ADVICE.htm](http://www.inforse.org/europe/ADVICE.htm)

## ECSE Project

The planned activities of the ECSE project include: making local sustainable energy plans and strategies, public presentations, local and national seminars, feasibility studies, and small demonstration systems.

INFORSE-Europe is project coordinator; the partners are: Centre of Environmental Solutions (CES) in Belarus and Skåne Energy Agency (SEA) in Sweden.

The full name of the project is "Engaging Citizens in Sustainable Energy to Improve Environment and Local Economy" (ECSE).

The Project is supported by the European Union - Europe Aid and by SIDA.

▲ "Energy Yard" at a Farm in North East Hungary, which was visited during the study tour. It is one of the results of an ambitious initiative of the coalition "Bükk Region LEADER Association" to make a transition to renewable energy supply in the region.

▼ Energy Saving Day in 2010 in Belarus.



PHOTO: ECOIDEA.BY

November 11, 2013

## International Day of Energy Saving

Initiative by SPARE, a school project on energy, climate and environment, where 6000 schools participate in 17 countries, which are mainly former CIS countries. INFORSE members are involved e.g., Friends of the Baltic in Russia, FoE Norway, and CES in Belarus.

See: [www.spareworld.org](http://www.spareworld.org)



# MEMBERS

## INFORSE-AFRICA

International Network for Sustainable Energy

### WEST AFRICA

**Burkina Faso:** ANAR, CEAS - Burkina - Centre Ecologique Albert Schweitzer, **Burundi:** CADIC. **Cameroon:** ADEID. **Dem. Republic of Congo:** COVOCODE. **Gambia:** ISRA. **Ghana:** EDAG. **Guinea:** AGUIPER. **Mali:** GRAT, Mali - Folkecenter for Renewable Energy. **Mauritania:** Terre Vivante. **Senegal:** Aajac Coluffifa, AGSF, ASES-MAS, **Enda - Energie-Environnement-Développement**, FEE, FID, GJAP, USE, URAPD. **Sierra Leone:** Sustainable Technology Development Group. **Togo:** JVE, FoE Togo.

### EAST & SOUTH AFRICA

**Kenya:** FWD - Foundation for Woodstove Dissemination / AFREPREN, Umande Trust. **Mozambique:** ADEL-Sofala, Livaningo. **Nigeria:** ECODEV, Sustainable Energy Network of Nigeria. **South Africa:** AWEA, SECCP - Earthlife Africa - Johannesburg. **Tanzania:** TaTEDO. **Uganda:** *CDI - Climate and Development Initiatives*, INED, IRDI, JEEP, UCSD.

## INFORSE-AMERICA

International Network for Sustainable Energy

### LATIN AMERICA

**Argentina:** CETAAR - Centro de Estudios Sobre Tecnologías Apropriadas de la Argentina. **REJIMA - Red de Jóvenes Investigadores del Medio Ambiente.** **Belize:** BEST - Belize Enterprise for Sustainable Technology. **Brazil:** APAEB - Associação dos Pequenos Agricultores do Município de Valente, CUT - Federacio Nacional dos Trabalhadores nas Industria Urbanas, GAMBA - Grupo Ambientalista da Bahia, IED - Instituto de Ecologia e Desenvolvimento, Instituto Eco-Engenho, REBRAf - Instituto Rede Brasileira Agroflorestal, **LIMA - Laboratório Interdisciplinar de Meio Ambiente**, PSA - Projeto Saude e Alegria, Sociedade Civil Mamirauá. **Chile:** Tekhne - Center for Experimentation & Training in Appropriate Technology. **Uruguay:** CEUTA - Centro de Estudios Uruguayo de Tecnologías Apropriadas, REDES - Red de Ecologia Social - FoE Uruguay. **Venezuela:** IUI-FRP - Instituto Universitario de Tecnologia.

### NORTH AMERICA

**Canada:** "we c.a.r.e." - Canadian Association for Renewable Energies, OSEA - Ontario Sustainable Energy Association. **USA:** ACEEE - American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, EDF - Environmental Defense Fund, IEER, SCI - Solar Cookers International.



## INFORSE-ASIA

International Network for Sustainable Energy

### EAST ASIA & PACIFIC

**Indonesia:** CAN Indonesia - Yayasan Gemi Nastiti. **Japan:** Friends of the Earth Japan, **ISEP - Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies.** **Malaysia:** CETDEM - Centre for Environment Technology and Development Malaysia. **Philippines:** APPROTECH ASIA, Haribon Foundation. **South Korea:** Green Korea United. **Thailand:** ATA, -Alternative Technology Association. **Vietnam:** VSED - Vietnam Center for Sustainable Energy Development.

### SOUTH ASIA

**Bangladesh:** Grameen Shakti. **India:** AFPRO - Action for Food Production, AKRSP - Aga Khan Rural Support Program, Choice Premises, AIWC - All India Women's Conference, ANDHYODAYA, Development Alternatives, TARA - Technology and Action for Rural Advancement, Grama Siri, **INSEDA - Integrated Sustainable Energy and Ecological Development Association**, JIFORD, LEDeG, Malanadu Development Society, Nayudamma Centre for Development Alternatives, NERD Society - Non-conventional Energy and Rural Development Society, Rural Communes, RYFO - Ryan Foundation, SCRIA, St. Xavier's Social Service Society, SDA, WUAC, WAFD - Women's Action for Development. **Nepal:** CRT - Centre for Rural Technology / GEWNET, SOLVE, SAP - South Asia Partnership Nepal. **Sri Lanka:** Centre for Women and Development, IDEA - Integrated Development Association, Practical Action - South Asia.

## INFORSE-EUROPE

International Network for Sustainable Energy

**Albania:** Albanian Ecological Club. **Armenia:** ECOTEAM NGO. **Belarus:** CES, Ecodome, MD-IAE. **Belgium:** APERE, EREF, For Mother Earth, FoE Flanders & Brussels, Brabant Ecology. **Bulgaria:** Za Zemiata. **Czech Republic:** CDE. **Croatia:** Green Action FoE Croatia. **Denmark:** DIB, NOAH - FoE Denmark, Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy, *SustainableEnergy - VedvarendeEnergi (VE)*, Samsøe Energy Academy. **Estonia:** Renewable Energy Centre TAASEN. **Finland:** Technology for Life. **France:** CLER, GERES, HELIO International, Relations North-South. **Germany:** Artefact, EUZ at Deister, Ecoact, LIFE e.V. **GB/UK:** Centre for Alternative Technology - CAT, ECO Centre - West Wales, Energy Solutions North West London, Hebden Bridge Alternative Technology Centre, The Greenhouse, SWEA. **Georgia:** Association Green Alternative, The Greens Movement of Georgia - FoE, Sun & Earth NGO. **Greece:** Mediterranean SOS Network. **Hungary:** E-misszio, Energy Club Hungary, IRENA Hungary Association, EENNA - Environmental Education Network National Association, Tree of Life. **Kazakhstan:** Karaganda Regional Ecological Museum. **Latvia:** Latvian Green Movement. **Lithuania:** Community Atgaja, ATEIK - Renewable Energy Information Consultation Centre, Green Policy Institute. **Kyrgyz Republic:** UNISON. **Macedonia:** Pro Activa, Citizens Association Front 21/42, Eco-sense. **Malta:** MEEREA - Malta Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energies Association. **Netherlands:** ENERGIA - International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy, Stichting EDP, Coöperatie De Windvogel. **Norway:** Norges Naturvernforbund - FoE Norway. **Poland:** GAP-Poland Foundation, PKE - Polish Ecological Club, KISE. **Portugal:** ALMARGEM, CCVT - Centro Ciencia Viva de Tavira. **Romania:** ARIN - Romanian Association of Nature Lovers, Prietenii Pamintului - Earth Friends, TERRA Millennium III, Sun Valley Association. **Russia:** GAIA Apatity Energy Center, Friends of the Baltic, MRYE. **Serbia:** CEKOR. **Slovakia:** *FAE-Foundation for Alternative Energy.* **Slovenia:** Slovenian E-Forum. **Spain:** Ecologists in Action, GCTPFNN - Scientists & Technicians Group for a Non Nuclear Future, Ecoserveis. **Switzerland:** SATS - Eco Center Langenbruck. **Turkey:** Eurosolar-Turkey. **Ukraine:** Renewable Energy Agency, Rivne Environmental Brotherhood, NGO Ecoclub, MAMA-86.

*The regional coordinators are highlighted with bold and italic.*