

Sun and wind never send us an invoice – new energy – new jobs

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends of the sun and of the wind,

The energy question has become the key question of modern developed countries and developing countries. Environmental disasters are becoming ever more common. 70 % of all environmental problems are energy problems.

The “Münchener Rückversicherung”, the largest reinsurance company in the world, in the year 2002, following the worldwide floods and storms, have made the following calculations: In the last thirty years the nature catastrophes have increased eight fold.

If this development continues at the same rate, then by the year 2060 the entire GNP of the world, the gross national product, will not suffice to cover the claims resulting from environmental damage.

Today’s economies and today’s energy policies are on their last legs.

The old energy policies mean wars about resources, environmental destruction and ever increasing costs. At this very important conference we are looking for alternatives. And I am confident that we will find these alternatives. We have all the necessary technologies we need for this change. This is one of the result of our conference here in Beijing.

The question is not, if we can compensate the old energies, the only question is, if we can compensate the old energies timely.

From this conference hope will emanate outwards for a better world. A better world is not only necessary but possible. A precondition is, however, a one-hundred-per-cent-change to solar energy. There is no future for the culture of mankind without ecology. And that means: There is no future for the culture of mankind without renewable energies. Environment-policy means peace-policy in a double sense: peace with the nature and peace between the peoples and societies.

This change to solar energy can and must take place within the next fifty years. Only then have we an escape route from the greenhouse effect.

In a single day we consume as much coal, gas and oil as nature created in 500.000 days. Think about it – what nature needed many hundreds of millions of years to create, we are burning up in a few short decades. We are burning the future of our own children and grandchildren. We are the first generation of the so called “homo sapiens” which has lost its instinct for survival and its procreation instinct.

If there were this evening a realistic ecological News-program on Chinese TV: What would my colleagues have to tell their viewers?

Firstly: We have today once again wiped from the face of the planet, never to return, one hundred and fifty of species of animals and plants. Cynics may maintain, that this doesn’t matter – people are what matter. But this point of view is not only cynical, but also stupid. Since without plants and animals people could not exist. We cannot change the laws of nature. I don’t know if you have heard this story, but it makes the future results of our present behaviour very clear: Two planets meet in the cosmos, our earth and another planet. The other planet asks the earth: How are you? The earth answers: Not too good, I have homo sapiens on board. And the other planet replies: Don’t worry, they will soon disappear.

The second report of an ecological TV-News-program this evening:
Again today, as indeed every day, we have created 30.000 hectares of desert supplementary.

The third report from our ecological TV-Program: We have again today lost a further 86 million tons of fertile earth as a result of wind and water erosion. While at the same time the world population has increased by a quarter of a million people. In one day.

The fourth report: Today we have once again released 100 million tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. In the long run our planet simply can not take this punishment. We do not have a spare planet stored in the trunk of our car.

Many politicians and economic experts assert that there is no alternative. If this were true: This would mean the end of all life.
Fortunately however: Nature does offer us an alternative.

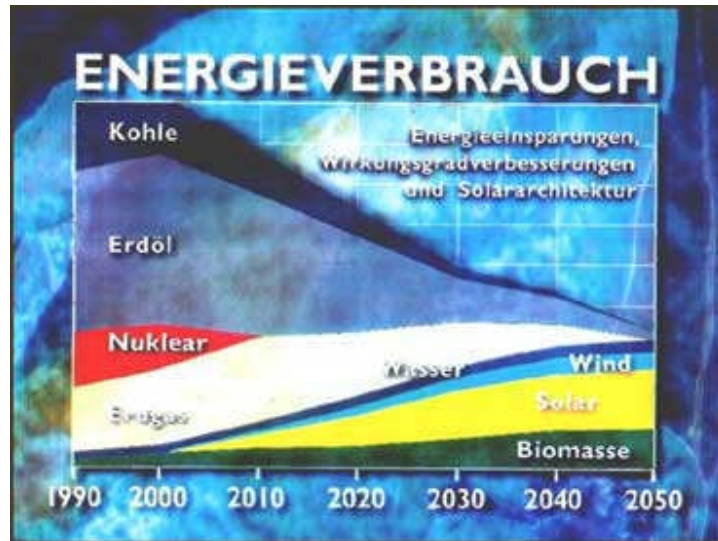
The alternative is: War about oil or peace through the sun. The sun can never be a cause of war. Fortunately for the sun: It has a built-in safety system – its distance of 150 million kilometres from the earth. There is no George W. Bush-sun, no Saddam Hussein-sun, no Bin Laden-sun, no Shell-sun, no Enron-sun. There is only the sun and the wind for all of us.

The sun gives us every day 15.000 times more energy than all 6,2 billion people use at present. Today alone, the sun will send us so much energy that we could cover our total energy requirements for the next one hundred and eighty years. The rays of sun are the greatest gift from the cosmos to us. The sun is the only source of income that this world has.

All else is only a conversion of the sun's energy or, indeed exploitation. Without sun no life and no work. In reality there is no problem of energy – we need only raise the blinds in order to see the light. We have only to learn to tune in to the Boss's own energy, for the energy from far, far above us. There is a fundamental and, indeed, spiritual difference between taking our energy from the heavens or taking coal, gas or oil from black holes in the earth. Mister Rockefeller had described oil as the tears of the devil. Oil or gas means: Limited energy for a limited period, that is for only a few more decades.

- Oil or gas means: Wars about resources.
 - Oil or gas means: Ever increasing energy costs.
 - Oil or gas means: The destruction of our irreplaceable environment.

 - Renewable energy means: Energy which costs nothing. The sun and the wind don't send us a bill. We only need efficient technologies.
 - Renewable energy means: We have energy for the next four and a half billion years. We have just reached the half-way mark in the history of creation.
 - Renewable energy means: Peace instead of war.
 - Renewable energy means: No destruction of the environment.
- The choice is up to us.



I will now show you a scenario about energy consumption which was commissioned by the European Union. Here in 2004 you see energy consumption at present in Europe.

The greater part is oil, followed by natural gas, than coal, than nuclear energy. And only very little renewable energy today, about six or seven per cent. This is today.

But now let's take a look at the year 2050. If we consistently continue to reduce the old energies and increase the renewable energies the result will be a hundred per cent use of renewable energies by the middle of our century: Energy from biomass, sun, wind and water.

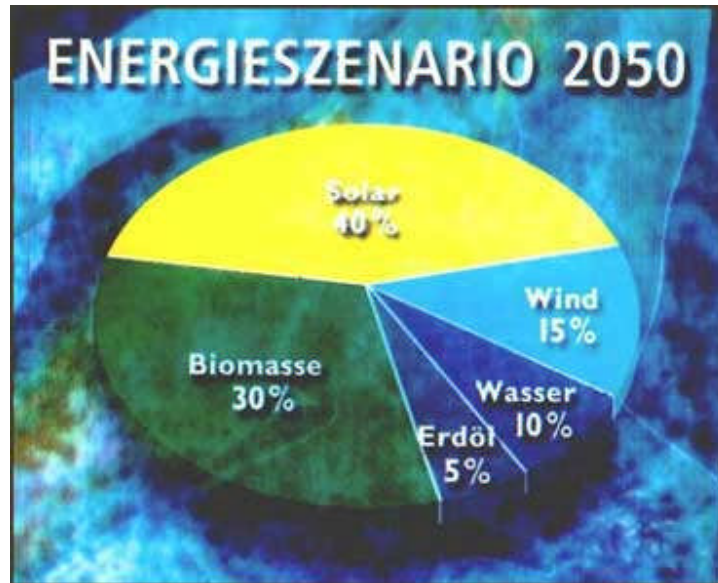
I have produced several dozen TV documentaries about renewable energies and written five books on the same subject. And my researches show clearly that this aim is practicable. We are looking at a vision which is one hundred per cent viable in Europe. But only on the following three conditions.

Firstly: We in the richer countries must learn to exist with less energy. But I know that the developing countries will need more energy in future.

Secondly: We must learn to use the energy we have more efficiently. For instance in our cars. In the future we don't have to drive in cars which consume 10 or more liters of fuel for every hundred kilometers. In Germany, we have already developed the one-liter-car. But you can't buy it.

Thirdly: Solar architecture means: Architects have to learn where the south is. If I open up a house to the south and close it off to the north, then I can cut my energy costs in half. It's so simple.

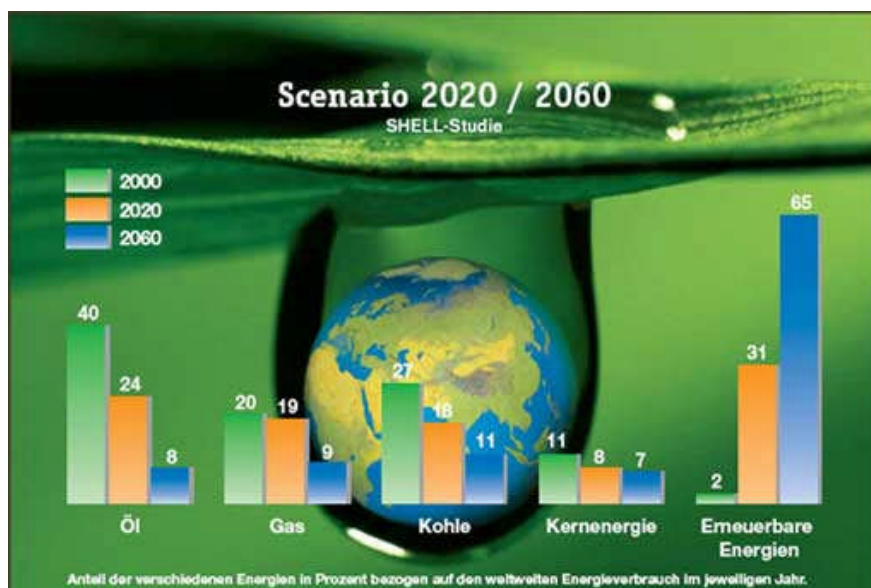
If we succeed in achieving this, then an energy scenario for 2050 can look like this,



40 per cent of our energy will come from the sun and 30 per cent from biomass. Biomass means energy from field and forest or biogas. Agricultural producers will become energy producers. Farmers will be the oil sheiks of the twenty first century. My vision is: Today's farmers will have a secure future. Producing both – organic food and organic energy. 15 per cent of the energy will come from wind. In Germany today 16.000 windmills have already replaced five atomic power plants. Windmills offer great opportunities also here in China and in whole Asia. 10 per cent of the energy will come from water power and to reassure the old energy lobby five per cent of energy may still come from oil.

Geothermal energy is, however, missing from this scenario. We can already take it, that about ten or fifteen per cent of future energy will come from Geothermal energy.

What I am now going to show you is a sensation. This is a Shell scenario up to the year two thousand and sixty. It is a world scenario.



The green columns show today's energy consumption globally. 40 per cent oil, 27 per cent coal, 20 per cent gas, 11 per cent atomic energy and only two per cent renewable energy which does not include water power.

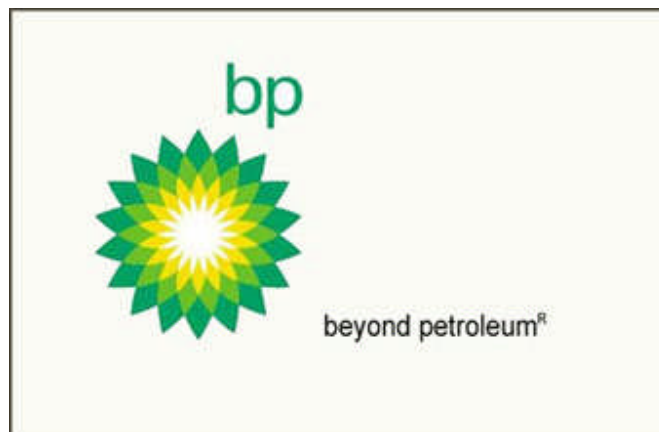
But now look at the blue column – it is the scenario for the year 2060.

Oil has been reduced from 40 per cent today to eight per cent, in about 55 years, says one of the largest oil producing companies of the world.

Gas, oil, coal and atomic energy – all will have been reduced. The only energy resource which will have increased is renewable energy, says Shell. That is from two per cent today to 65 per cent in the middle of our century. And let me stress that these figures come from one of the largest oil companies in the world, Shell.

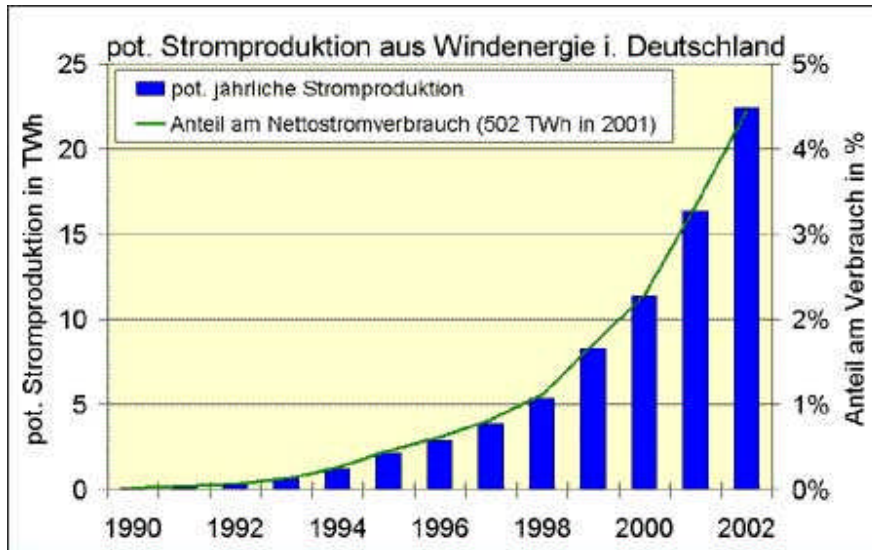
I have made four TV programs concerning this scenario. I had in the TV studio representatives from both European and American oil concerns. The European concerns, Shell and BP, actually admit that this scenario can be achieved. The American concerns, on the other hand, brushed this off as eco-romantics.

The Shell and BP Boards said: "We are going to become solar concerns." I asked the boss of BP Germany: "BP means however British Petroleum. Are you going to change your name, if you become a solar concern?" His answer was interesting. He replied: "The Board has decided that BP in the future will no longer mean British Petroleum, but rather Beyond Petroleum." Here you have the proof: In big notices in all German newspapers BP signs with his new name: Beyond Petroleum. The first big oil concern says good by to the oil age.



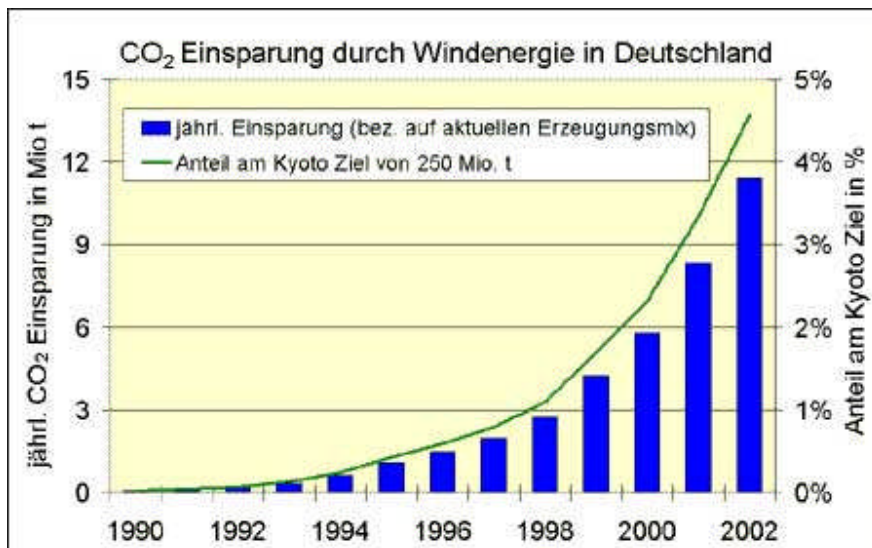
In the years to come they will learn that we have to change not just to 65 percent renewable energy, but to one hundred percent.

Even in the early nineties we had in Germany a very positive development in the field of wind energy. In the last twelve years we have increased the share of wind energy seventy times.



16.000 windmills in Germany have taken the place of five atomic power stations. Germany leads the world in wind power. And now we are moving off-shore and thus we will harvest even more wind energy. This curve demonstrates clearly that we need only to take a long-term view.

Alone in the year 2002 the 16.000 windmills in Germany have saved the world from the effects of nearly 12 million tons of carbon dioxide.



Renewable energy is also good for the employment market. Alone as a result of wind energy we have created 50.000 new jobs in Germany. If we consider all renewable energy resources together, than we are talking about 150.000 jobs. Renewable energy is not a job killer, but the job creator of the future.



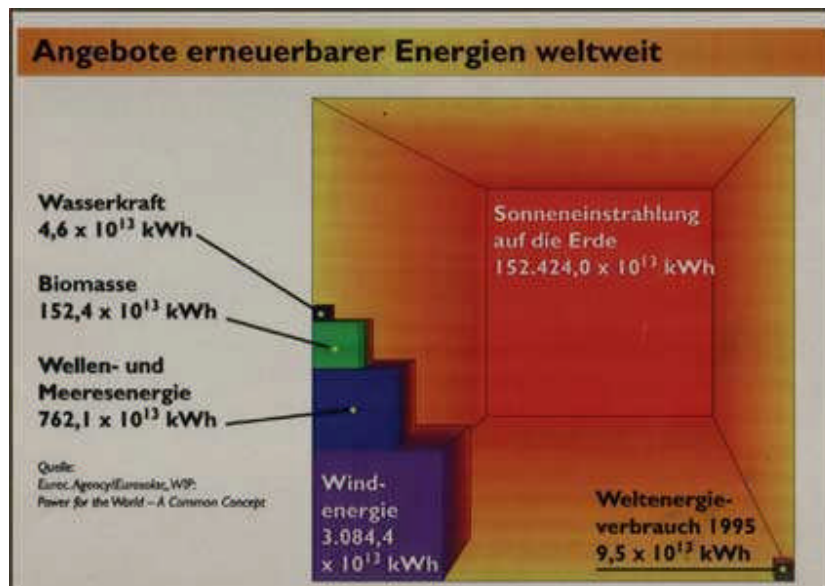
Here you can see the progress of efficiency of our windmills in the last 20 years. In 1980 we installed such little windmills which produced electricity for about 35 people. But today we install Five-Megawatt-Windmills which produce electricity for 17.000 people.

In this book “War about oil or peace through the sun”, and it is no coincidence that it has been published on the anniversary of Nine eleven, I stressed the political background to the oil wars of the Bush-family.

For example: George W. Bush got his first credit for his former oil company from the Bin Laden-family. And Bush senior actually spent his holidays with his wife Barbara in 1996 at the house of the Bin Laden-family in Riad. It takes one bandit to know another.

But let me repeat: Wars about oil are not necessary in the future. We have all the alternatives we need. We can realise peace through the sun. The world is renewable. The alternative is very simple: What do we really want? Oil with all the known negative consequences: 40 years of wars, environmental destruction, ever increasing prices or four billion years of renewable energies with a chance for peace, a rejuvenated environment, low costs and a world we can, in good conscience, pass on to our children and grandchildren.

I do not believe that technology alone can save us. Therefore in this book “The ecological Jesus – Trust in creation” I am trying to find an ecological ethic. Ethic and technology must eventually fuse. On the one hand we know what we are doing, but on the other hand we don't do what we know. We can only be freed of this dilemma by an ecological ethic, ecological responsibility or, if you wish, an ecological religion. The ecological religion can be a new step to a theology of liberation.



Here you can see everything that nature has to offer in the way of renewable energies. The small black box alone represents the total amount of energy that mankind needs in a single year. Water power alone offers us theoretically just as much energy. We are not dependent alone on water power, we have a wide range of other renewable energies at our disposal.

Biomass offers us theoretically ten times as much energy as we need in one year.
Wave and tidal energy of the oceans offers us forty times more energy than we need.
Wind power 80 times more.
Geothermal power is not even included in the reckoning.
And – as already stated – the sun offers us 15.000 times more than we need.

Nature has placed at our disposal everything we need. We can work towards a world in which no child should go hungry or starve. Only with the help of renewable energy plus education can we overcome hunger in the world. Only with renewable energy is economic development really viable in the so called Third World.

If the industrial and emerging economies set the trend by using renewable energies, the so called Third World countries will follow in their footsteps.



To sum it up: Renewable energy means: Economic, ecological, social and ethical advantages.

During my last TV program I asked the Dalai Lama, the pope of the East: What is religion today? His answer was: Only those who take an active part in realizing the true nature of creation can call themselves religious.

For the first time in history the survival of mankind depends on a radical spiritual, economic and ecological change. In the middle of this century there will already be about 10 billion people who want the same way of life and comfort as the 800 million people in the industrial countries today. But our planet, however, was not designed to meet such a need.

Only with a solar energy economy or with a solar world economy can we solve the problems of the 21st century. Renewable energy is, indeed, not everything, but without it everything comes to naught.

We can break the vicious circle of the old destructive energies.

- Who – if not we?
- When – if not now?

I am a conservative person. If I were a socialist I would adopt this motto for our new age:
 “Citizens – forward to the sun and freedom” or
 Solar people or solariat of the world, unite!

I invite you to the page of the sun and to the page of the wind. Have a good time and a good life.

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Books of Franz Alt:
 Zum War For Oil or Peace Through The Sun »
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