

Dear Readers,

In his 2011 State of the Union Address, President Obama set the national goal to generate 80 percent of electricity from clean energy sources by 2035; the German government recently outlined its long-term energy concept which envisions full energy import independence and a 60 percent renewable energies share by 2050; the City of San Francisco launched an initiative aiming at a 100 percent renewables supply within just a decade; and under the motto “growth with foresight,” Hamburg, this year Europe’s green capital, shows how urban development can be both economically beneficial and environmentally sustainable. These are only a few examples illustrating that true leadership willing to tackle the twin challenges of climate change and energy security can be found on both sides of the Atlantic.

Welcome to the first edition of CONNECTED – a newsletter discussing climate and energy from a transatlantic perspective. With CONNECTED, partners adelphi and Worldwatch, headquartered in Berlin and Washington DC, will support the Transatlantic Climate Bridge, an initiative that since its inception in 2008 has promoted numerous activities by public authorities, the private sector, civil society, and academia in order to strengthen climate protection and energy security. CONNECTED aims to showcase and review policy and research initiatives that are aimed at low-emissions development. Opinion pieces, interviews, as well as reports on studies, dialogues and conferences will provide a regular update on the progress made toward building climate-compatible economies in Europe, the United States and beyond.

This first edition of CONNECTED highlights the enormous opportunities but also some of the remaining barriers in this endeavor. Jennifer Morgan, Director of the Climate and Energy Program at the World Resources Institute, highlights the need to forge a common transatlantic agenda on reducing the global risks resulting from climate change. She further outlines the importance of close relations to China for accelerating the transition to a highly efficient, secure, and low-carbon economy. In our “Face to Face” interview section, two pioneers in expanding renewable energies, Michael Eckhart of the American Council on Renewable Energy and Hermann Albers of the German Wind Energy Association, take a criti-

cal look at impediments to the expansion of sustainable energy in the US and Germany. But they also see promising political signs: the renewable energy community is growing in size, influence, and power and is no longer a single party issue but rather one that is supported across all sections of society.

CONNECTED focuses on leaders like Jennifer, Hermann and Michael who are making a difference — at the local, state and federal levels. We are delighted to support the Transatlantic Climate Bridge in helping Americans and Germans exchange their know-how and pave the way for joint climate and energy solutions. And we hope you enjoy reading CONNECTED as much as we took pleasure in putting it together.

*Dennis Taenzler
adelphi*

*Alexander Ochs
Worldwatch Institute*

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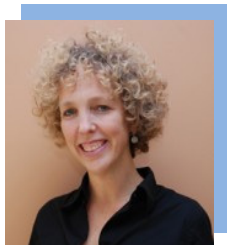


OP-ED

Transforming the Transatlantic Relationship through Climate Action

by Jennifer L. Morgan, World Resources Institute

With 2010 tied with 2005 as the warmest year of the global surface temperature on record and concerns about energy security issues ever present, one would think that these two intertwined issues would be front and center in the transatlantic relationship. However, looking at recent speeches from EU and US officials on the partnership, one has to note that climate and new energy solutions are seldom mentioned. It is therefore not a surprise that the German Marshall Fund's [Transatlantic Trends 2010](#) recently found that only six percent of Americans, and only 20 percent of Europeans, consider fighting climate change a top priority for their countries. This needs to change.



„The rise of China has shifted the geopolitical landscape in many ways, and not least on energy and climate security.“

Jennifer L. Morgan

While pressing economic problems now naturally feature front and center for US and EU leaders, they cannot afford to take their eyes off the climate change ball, particularly when it is clear that many solutions both reduce energy dependence and create jobs. In order to transform the public debate both bilaterally and globally, two high level initiatives for the transatlantic agenda should rise to the top.

First, in order to delve deeper into issues that matter to policymakers and the public, Europe and the US should commission a joint risk assessment of global climate change. Both the EU and the US have commissioned individual risk assessments by their own security community on the impacts of climate change, yet much of the information is classified.

Cooperation on future assessments should be increased and the maximum amount placed in the public domain in order to create greater understanding of the risk and drive a wider global debate. Forging a common transatlantic agenda on reducing risk globally from climate impacts and building the needed institutions and policy responses to do so is essential. Information from a joint risk assessment could assist in creating a common inspirational vision for the public on both sides of the Atlantic on tackling this massive challenge.

Second, it is clear that there is no transatlantic solution to these issues that does not have to engage and involve China. The rise of China has shifted the geopolitical landscape in many ways, and not least on energy and climate security. China, the US, and the EU, as the world's major energy consumers, oil importers and three top greenhouse gas emitters have many common interests. The interconnectedness of the three economies not only poses risks, but also opens new opportunities for harnessing the power of globalization to drive the transition to a highly efficient, secure and low carbon economy. Whether it be collectively reducing the cost of renewable energy or setting ambitious efficiency standards for products, these three global players should drive together, through competitive collaboration, the rapid shift to a low carbon economy.

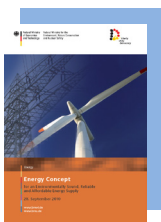
The transatlantic relationship has been a long-standing foundation for global security and prosperity. In order to maintain that role, it must now deliberately and consequently address climate change and energy security with new and innovative ways to forge a stable future.

Jennifer L. Morgan is director of the [Climate and Energy Program](#) at the World Resources Institute.

POLICY UPDATE

German national energy concept published

The German government has published a long-term **[national energy concept](#)** which outlines the main pillars for energy security until 2050. The energy concept aims to provide guidelines for an environmentally-friendly, reliable and affordable energy supply, and describes what the government considers to be the necessary steps on the road to the age of renewable energy. In accordance with the government's coalition agreement, greenhouse gas emissions shall be reduced by 40 percent until 2020 and by at least 80 percent until 2050 compared to 1990 levels.



Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWi) and Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU):

Energy Concept for an Environmentally Sound, Reliable and Affordable Energy Supply

Download the report [here](#)

California on the way to cap & trade

California is on its way to implement a cap & trade system based on the **[state's climate law A.B. 32](#)**. In early November, nearly two thirds of Californian voters opposed proposition 23, which would have stopped A.B.32 measures from going into effect. With the release of draft regulations for the cap & trade program by the California Air Resources Board, policy implementation has reached the next level. The first compliance period of the program is to run from 2012 through 2015 and will apply to electricity generators located in the state, imported electricity, refineries, and large industrial sources. This program should help California's efforts to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020, and ultimately achieve an 80% reduction from 1990 levels by 2050.

US strategy on rare earth

In Mid-December, the U.S. Department of Energy has released a **[Critical Materials Strategy](#)** examining the country's dependence on rare earths metals. The report pays particular attention to their relevance for clean energy technologies as well as to risks of sup-

ply disruptions. As Secretary of Energy Steven Chu pointed out: "Each day, researchers and entrepreneurs across the United States are working to develop and deploy clean energy technologies that will enhance our security, reduce carbon pollution and promote economic prosperity. This strategy is an important step in planning for growing global demand for clean energy products that will help strengthen the U.S. economy and create jobs."

Transatlantic cities go green

Cities are increasingly taking the lead in pushing a transformation towards a low carbon society. In late December, San Francisco's outgoing Mayor Gavin Newsom announced an **[initiative](#)** that is to result in 100 percent renewables to meet the city's electricity demand within the next decade. Solar, biogas, and hydropower are the main pillars of this ambitious plan. On the other side of the Atlantic, the City of Hamburg is Europe's **[green capital](#)** for 2011, having won a competition between 34 cities in 17 different European countries. The reason for Hamburg's bid was to find out where Hamburg's environmental protection policies stand in relation to other international cities and to learn from other cities successes. Of particular importance to the EU jury, was the link between steadily increasing economic development and environmental protection in Hamburg.

Obama Sets Clean Energy Targets

President Barack Obama laid out his vision for clean energy in the 2011 **[State of the Union Address](#)**. In his speech, Obama set targets for the United States to generate 80 percent of electricity from clean energy sources by 2035 and to have 1 million electric vehicles on the road by 2015. His administration wants to achieve these targets through several policies that encourage research & development, manufacturing, and consumer demand for new clean energy technologies. Proposed policies include: increasing the Department of Energy's funding for research programs such as the new Advanced Research Projects Agency's energy program as well as several new "Energy Innovation Hubs"; ending tax subsidies for fossil fuel producers; removing red-tape for siting renewable projects on public lands; providing consumer rebates for electric vehicles; and implementing programs that encourage investment in energy efficiency and electric vehicle infrastructure.

FACE TO FACE

A Transatlantic Conversation with Michael Eckhardt and Hermann Albers

The expansion of renewable energies is critical for energy security and requires prolonged leadership. CONNECTED asked two leaders in the renewables industry- Michael Eckhart, president of the [American Council on Renewable Energy \(ACORE\)](#), and Hermann Albers, president of the [German Wind Energy Association](#) - about the future of renewable energies from a transatlantic perspective.

CONNECTED: *The prospects for new, ambitious climate and energy policies currently seem slim both in Europe and the United States. From your perspective: what is currently the most encouraging development on your side of the Atlantic?*

Hermann Albers (HA): Especially reassuring is the fact that there is no political movement that doubts the necessity of an energy transformation anymore. In Germany, we have the Renewable Energy law to thank for the fact that we are on this path. For about 20 years, this law and its predecessor, the Feed in Tariff Law, have provided for stable framework conditions and a constant expansion of renewable energies. We have to continue these success stories. Many other European countries have adopted this incentive system from us, which substantiates the success of the Renewable Energy law.

Michael Eckhardt (ME): In North America there are two things. First, we have some marketplace successes to build on, particularly in Ontario and several Western States, and in places like Texas and Kansas. The wind power market is maturing, but the solar energy markets are coming up very fast, and the rate of geothermal installations is very impressive, the biomass field is moving, and there's more activity in small hydro. We have quite a bit of renewable energy activity

Then politically, the most encouraging thing is that we've ended the last Congress. We had a supermajority by one party, which always causes the other party to go into a blockade mode. And that is now in the past. Now we have a government structure that is most conducive to legislation, which is the White

House and the House of Representatives being held by different parties, the party with a majority in the House being in the minority in the Senate, and the Senate being near 50/50 (we are now at 53/47). If this proves true, we'll see a lot of bills coming out of the Republican-controlled House, and they only need four [Democratic] crossover votes to get their bills passed in the Senate.

The Republicans gave the appearance of being against renewables in the last Congress, but they weren't voting against renewables, they were voting against Democrats. We know that there are many Republicans who are pro-renewables. We're going to see that in this Congress.

CONNECTED: *Could a national Renewable Energy Standard (RES) be passed?*

ME: I believe the House of Representatives will produce a Republican-led energy bill, and then it will go over to the Senate. They will tack a National RES onto a more conventional energy bill. Most people say it'll never get passed, but I believe it will happen faster than we think.

CONNECTED: *What can decision makers on each side of the Atlantic learn from one another?*

ME: It's hard to draw directly because they are different government systems. But generally both can observe that renewable energy is a community that is growing in size, influence, and power; we're here for the long haul. We've seen this in Germany.



„Even though they have different government systems, policies that work in one country can be adapted to the other.“

Michael Eckhardt

The Christian Democrats came into power and started to take a swipe at renewables by lowering financial incentives, but then backed off when they realized that it was going to hurt their economy. Those

that lean left politically like us because of our environmental and climate benefits, and those that lean right like us because we're becoming an important industry. Politicians can learn from each other by understanding that renewable energy is not a single-party topic.

„The energy transformation will only become a reality when we learn from the experiences of others, regardless if they are in technological, societal, or political realm.“

Hermann Albers



HA: What is clear is that climate protection cannot be limited to single states. We are all in the same boat and must all pull our weight. It is therefore important that an exchange between individual countries happens. The energy transformation will only become a reality when we learn from the experiences of others, regardless if they are in technological, societal, or political realm. Here, it is especially the United States and Europe that must take on a pioneering role. The European Union has formulated clear goals: by 2020, 20 percent of energy consumption should be from renewables. In Germany, the goal of the Federal Government is to have an 80 percent renewable share of electricity consumption by 2050. As a sector say that it is possible to have a 47 percent share already by 2020.

CONNECTED: How can Germany and the United States better cooperate on Renewables?

HA: There already a number of dynamic examples of cooperation and a rich exchange in the area of renewable energy, both political and in the private sector. A lot has happened in the past few years. What is now important is that these positive developments are replicated. For example, more and more German wind companies are settling in the US, opening production plants or branches. Both countries profit from this: for the US it means more jobs and German know-how, for Germany it means that Germany companies can expand in the US.

There are 340 000 people employed in the renewable energy sector today in Germany. If one breaks it down for the US, one can imagine what kind of job market potential the sector has for Americans.

ME: I already see collaboration on policy ideas in terms of paying attention to what has worked in each country. Even though they have different government systems, policies that work in one country can be adapted to the other. These would include basic regulatory mandates such as a RES or economic mandates such as a feed-in tariff, which we call a Renewable Energy Standard Offer (RESO). Variations on the same themes work in both places. There is a wide array for policy options available. Governments can create mandates, incentives, subsidies, or supports such as R&D funding.

One thing that the United States could learn from Germany is how KfW [the German government-owned development bank] is financing the solar energy market. We don't have a development bank within our country the way Germany does, and the public sector financing has been a hidden key factor in the success of the German feed-in tariff. The tariff has three parts: first, the requirement that the utility must pay a certain rate for power generated from renewables, second, the requirement that utilities must interconnect and pay the cost of interconnection, and third, though this wasn't part of the legislation, that KfW stepped up and did the financing. We could learn a lot from that arrangement.

CONNECTED: Do you think there is any chance of Germany's experience with the feed-in tariff, and criticism it received for setting incentives too high, discouraging other countries from adopting a similar policy?

ME: No, quite the opposite. We have to be able to stand up to our critics, and we can't expect to have a great incentive like that and have the coal and nuclear industry not launch public relations campaigns against it. The criticism isn't coming from our friends, its coming from our competitors. The German government, under conservative control, reduced the feed-in tariff by less than the amount that the cost of photovoltaics (PV) had fallen since the creation of the policy.

Therefore PV today is more profitable than before they made their reduction. Every public policy should stand up to its critics, present its arguments, and win the day. If the feed-in tariff is too expensive it should be reduced, but it hasn't been reduced as much as its critics wanted. I think the debate has been healthy.

CONNECTED: *If you were meeting the president of the United States or the chancellor of Germany tomorrow, what would you tell them is the most important action to take for promoting renewable energy?*

HA: I would make it clear to them that what is important is: firstly, to come up with international compulsory goals for climate protection; and secondly, to promote the expansion of renewable energy in their own countries. Europe and the US have a special responsibility and function as role models. Further, I would tell the Federal Chancellor, Mrs. Merkel, that I think that the ambitious climate goals of Germany are correct and important. I would also say that the know-how of the wind sector should play a bigger role in the political implementation of these goals; it is not enough to only speak with the big energy companies.

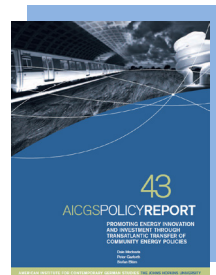
ME: I would encourage them to speak in favor of renewable energy as good public policy. They are both already doing so, though Obama much more than Merkel. I'd ask them to ask the American people and the German people to get involved in this and find ways to support clean energy. The bully pulpit, the power of the President speaking, definitely exists. Obama has done a good job of this. I've been told that in 2010 President Obama gave 52 speeches in which he mentioned renewable energy. That's one a week! It's rewarding to have the President of the United States speaking on your mission's behalf that way.

IN FOCUS

German community energy planning as a model for the United States

by James Mister, Forum for Atlantic Climate and Energy Talks (FACET)

"Promoting Energy Innovation and Investment Through Transatlantic Transfer of Community



*Stefan Blüm, Peter Garforth and Dale Medearis:
Promoting Energy Innovation and Investment Through Transatlantic Transfer of Community Energy Policies.*

Download the report [here](#)

"Energy Policies" is the title of a report published by the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (AICGS). The authors Stefan Blüm, Peter Garforth and Dale Medearis are experts in the energy, urban and environmental planning fields. They assert that the best way for US cities and urban areas to become more competitive centers of low-carbon economic development and efficient, affordable energy use is by implementing sub-national community energy planning (CEP) policies modeled on successful predecessors in Germany. The authors evaluate the prospects of broadening the transatlantic transfer of CEP in light of Germany's pioneering work in confronting its energy and environmental challenges. For over 40 years, Germany has deployed a broad range of CEP measures in several areas such as energy efficiency, heat recovery, fossil fuel usage, transportation, and land use. The toolbox includes mixed-use zoning, combined municipal utility services, and the creation of district energy networks.

The report assesses the transferability of successful CEP policies from urban, industrial cities in Baden-Württemberg like Stuttgart and Mannheim to US regions interested in improving energy and urban development planning like Loudoun and

Arlington counties in Virginia. The authors then lay out the benefits of CEP transfer and the limitations of transferability by contrasting US and German regional planning infrastructures, urban governance methodologies, as well as institutional and cultural differences.

Some of the key challenges to CEP in the US are identified. They include uncoordinated national-level climate policies that could serve as an umbrella for local initiatives and a lack of resources for voluntary action. The authors then suggest that the intangible goals and strategies guiding current CEP efforts in the US be supplanted by concrete, problem-focused planning. Analysis of readily transferable German and EU CEP policies could be of enormous help in the necessary installation of quantitative benchmarks. Strengthened transatlantic cooperation in business, technology and academia would be both a requirement and outcome of such policy transfer. In the absence of both a binding global pact and federal leadership, the report is a valuable contribution to the recently renewed interest in municipality-focused, bottom-up US energy and climate policy.

For more information on AICGS, please visit the [AICGS website](#).

See also the AICGS report by Robert V. Percival and Miranda A. Schreurs:

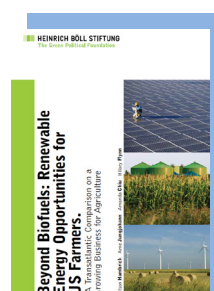
[“Intellectual Property Rights and Green Technology Transfer: German and U.S. Perspectives”](#)

More information on FACET is available [here](#)

Beyond Biofuels: Renewable Energy Opportunities for US Farmers

by Aki Kachi, adelphi

In days of volatile agricultural commodity markets, the American agricultural sector faces a number of challenges: to diversify farmers' income, to promote rural development, to increase energy security, and to improve the environment. The Heinrich Böll Foundation published a [study](#) examining opportunities and giving recommendations for the American agricultural sector to address these challenges and to expand their role in renewable energy production. A review is given of farms in Germany and renewable



Heinrich Böll Stiftung:
*Beyond Biofuels: Renewable
Energy Opportunities for
U.S. Farmers.*

Download the report [here](#)

energy including their investments in wind, solar, solid biomass, biogas, biodiesel as well as a discussion of sustainability measures, stakeholders and lobbies, and financing instruments. A less glowing look is given to the US sector pointing out deficiencies and opportunities where US farmers are losing out on potential additional income, and areas of sustainability improvement through renewable development. After a number of comparisons, it gives recommendations for American farmers to emulate their German counterparts and how they might go about doing it.

The authors are optimistic about the transferability of best practices and policies used in Germany, but don't go into detail about institutional and infrastructural barriers to renewable expansion. The implication is that issues in the US are not as progressive primarily due to a lack of information and education, and lack of networking and coalition building. The report gives many constructive suggestions including outreach campaigns, transatlantic farmer exchanges, and local and state level policy options in the sector, but refrains from addressing other major

obstacles. The US for example, is 27 times larger than Germany with a splintered electric grid.

Germany is densely populated with good grid inter-connections both domestically and to places like Norway, where excess intermittent wind and solar power from States like Schleswig Holstein can be 'banked'. American population centers, in contrast, where electricity demand is the greatest, are simply not grid connected to the windy corridor from the Dakotas to Texas. Carbon footprints are mentioned, but controversies such as conflicts between food, fuel, water, and land use require more attention.

Passing over the bigger picture of global agricultural, sustainability, and trade issues, the report gives a good preliminary basis for ideas about what American farmers can learn from their German counterparts, and how to inform, educate, and build coalitions to promote renewable expansion in rural America. Becoming the 'energy farmers' of the 21st Century needs further attention, and the reports suggestions reaching out to the bread basket is a good first step.

For more information on the activities of the Heinrich Boell Stiftung, please see <http://www.boell.org>

For an example of a Transatlantic Farmer-to-Farmer exchange on bioenergy and climate friendly farming practices, conducted by Ecologic and Environmental Defense, please see <http://ecologic.eu/node>

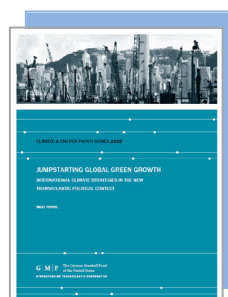
Jumpstarting Green Economy – but how?

By Dennis Taenzler, adelphi

Everyone seems to be talking about green growth. In January, the German Parliament initiated a new so-called Enquete Commission on "Growth, Welfare, Quality of Life – Paths to Sustainable Economic Management and Societal Progress in the Social Market Economy" to develop a holistic understanding of welfare and growth, create a new indicator to measure the quality of growth, and examine the chances and limitations of growth, resource use and techno-

logical progress. The United Nations will also touch on the issue of green growth in preparing the Rio+20 Conference in 2012 – 20 years after the groundbreaking United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro – where potential pathways to a green economy will be a main focus of the international community.

The recently [published reflections](#) of Nigel Purvis, president of Climate Advisers and senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, are likely to inform these discussions. Focusing on the international climate negotiations, Purvis suggests that green growth can be a springboard for new momentum on international climate action. From a transatlantic perspective, this requires shifting attention towards sharing the costs of new policies and practices being implemented in the developing world, where most of the future growth in emissions will



*Nigel Purvis:
Jumpstarting Global Green
Growth: International Climate
Strategies in the New Transatlantic
Political Context*

Download the report [here](#)

occur. He argues that most nations pursuing green growth strategies do so not necessarily because of climate change, but because of the obvious national and local benefits, e.g. to energy security or public health. As a result, a new kind of bottom-up leadership is evolving, especially within emerging economies such as China and India.

Such efforts to promote green growth should be supported by new financing instruments, which is where the transatlantic partnership comes in. In addition to 'mainstreaming' green growth into traditional development policies, new resources should be provided based on criteria such as proven political commitment to low-emissions development in recipient countries, governance reforms to manage international climate flows, performance-based incentives and international transparency.

In order to mobilize the resources needed to accelerate green growth, however, public funding is not the only option; carbon offset markets, development bank lending as well as private sector investments are key sources that will also be met by contributions by the recipient countries. Purvis' theory of change may not be enough to form a holistic concept of green growth due to its strong focus on the international climate agenda, yet his reflections indicate how to provide the resources needed to jumpstart green growth strategies on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the UNCED conference in Rio.

For more information on the Rio+ 20 process on Green Economy, please see <http://www.uncsd2012.org>

See also GMF's recently published paper series on the challenges of [climate security](#)

EVENTS

More Green for the Green: How Sustainability Innovations Foster Win-Win-Win-Situations

by Annette Knoedler, Worldwatch Institute

The U.S. National Academies are researching current trends in innovation policy and how best to develop leading-edge technologies. To get the most valuable results, they have established an international dialogue on innovation programs and best practices. So far, the Academies have been working with Japan, India, and the Belgian region of Flanders. More recently, a high-level conference in Washington, D.C. took a closer look at U.S.-German innovation policy.

Life often is a zero-sum game: if I get a bigger slice of pie, you will get a smaller one; I win, you lose. The amount of pie is unchanged. In situations that are "win-win," however, cooperation leads to benefits for both parties. Take the example of sponsorship: company X profits from being an official sponsor of the

soccer World Cup, because it will raise sales and improve its image. Meanwhile, the world football association, FIFA, rakes in a huge amount of money. Both win.



German Ambassador Klaus Scharioth
© German Embassy, Washington, D.C.

But what about triple-win scenarios? A prominent example of a "win-win-win" situation is investing in the green movement. Not only does our planet profit from reduced greenhouse gas emissions, but the industry that invests in green technology also profits, as will a country's energy security.

Projections indicate that in the Germany of 2020, more than 20 billion Euro will stay in the country – annually!—due to reduced energy imports. This number is expected to increase to 40 billion Euro in 2030. At the same time, a massive job market emerges from growth in renewables. In Germany alone, some 340,000 green jobs have already been created over the last few years.

So what is needed to create triple-win situations? Innovations! But what does this mean? Conference participant Bernhard Milow, with the German Aerospace Center (DLR), explained it this way: whereas the goal of research is to gain knowledge and to develop inventions, the goal of innovation should be marketable products. Innovations in the energy sector are various. In our ReVolt series on innovations in the climate and energy world, we have reported on third-generation biofuels from algae, a Chinese futuristic bus that would glide above automobile traffic, the use of Managed Print Services to reduce the use of paper and ink in offices, and new cooling methods using Concentrated Solar Power.

At the conference attention quickly turned to electric vehicles. Patrick Davis with the U.S. Department of Energy introduced the Battery Initiative for Electric Vehicles, which aims to put 1 million plug-in hybrid electric vehicles on U.S. roads by 2015 and to lower the battery cost per kilowatt hour from \$1,000 to \$300 by 2014.

„In California, transatlantic cooperation has resulted in plans for a 1 GW CSP, the largest solar energy project on U.S. public lands.“

Furthermore, DOE wants to establish a complete value chain for lithium battery manufacturing that includes the R&D, technology, design, manufacturing (from material to cell), recycling, as well as the charging infrastructure. As Richard Steinberg with automaker BMW noted, “Electrification is the only answer!”

German Ambassador Klaus Scharioth observed that the Transatlantic Climate Bridge is an “excellent illustration” of promoting innovative ideas and said that he was very proud of the close German-U.S. cooperation in the area of environmental and climate policy. John Holdren, Assistant to the U.S. President for Science and Technology, highlighted transatlantic cooperation in science, technology, and innovation—in particular the U.S.-EU Joint Consultative Group—as well as the flourishing institute-to-institute cooperation as illustrated, for example, by collaboration between the U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Germany’s DLR. In California, transatlantic cooperation has resulted in plans for the 1 GW Blythe Solar Power Project, a joint venture that will be the largest solar energy project on U.S. public lands.

For more information on the conference “Meeting Global Challenges: US-German Innovation Policy” including the speech given by German Ambassador Klaus Scharioth, please see [here](#)

Preparing the Workforce for a Green Jobs Economy – A Transatlantic Perspective

by Rebecca Bertram, adelphi

The term „Green Economy“ has established itself as the new buzz phrase when it comes to justifying innovative sustainability policy. Combating dangerous climate change is no longer just an environmental necessity but an economic one as well for which the transatlantic partners need to pave a common way forward. On September 21, 2010 experts from both sides of the Atlantic came together in Berlin to discuss the key issue of preparing the workforce for a green economy. The event was jointly organized by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Hans Böckler Foundation and the U.S. Embassy Berlin.

„For Germany, green jobs have remained a key driver throughout the economic crisis and accounted for around 340,000 jobs in 2009“

For Germany, green jobs have remained a key driver throughout the economic crisis and accounted for around 340,000 jobs in 2009. Matthias Machnig, Minister for Economics, Labor and Technology of Thuringia and former State Secretary in the German Ministry for the Environment referred to the restructuring of the workforce as the key challenge of the ecological debate. There are currently many different training opportunities for skilled workers in both Germany and the U.S. while in both countries less skilled workers are often neglected.



Matthias Machnig, Minister for Economics, Labor and Technology of Thuringia
© U.S. Embassy Berlin

Germany's "green" training is subject to its successful dual educational system while the U.S. builds on its community college system. Glenn Cummings, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the U.S. Department of Education, pointed out that "community colleges are responding quickly to the regional employment demands of the industry, and in doing so, they are supporting the country's economic recovery."



Glenn Cummings, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the U.S. Department of Education
© U.S. Embassy Berlin

While Germany and the U.S. offer different training opportunities, policy makers from both countries agreed that green job training needs to set a greater focus on the mid-range worker. William Spriggs, Assistant Secretary for Policy in the U.S. Department of Labor pointed to his Department's specialized support programs to aid women, youth and minorities in making the transition into taking on a green job.

Programme and documentation of the "Greening the Economy" conference, jointly organized by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Hans Böckler Foundation and the US Embassy in Germany, are available [here](#)

From Hamburg to Bilbao: New Industrial Life through Clean Energy

by Thomas Legge, The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF)

U.S. officials and policy makers gained an inside perspective into the range of European policies and business strategies for clean-tech competitiveness on a study tour to Germany and Spain. The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) organized the tour September 4-11 2010, with support from the Transatlantic Climate Bridge. In Hamburg, the delegates saw a case study of a city that had reinvented itself as a hub of clean energy production, home to companies like REPower and LichtBlick, whose senior management they met. They visited City Hall to hear about the measures Hamburg has taken to win its bid to become the European Green Capital 2011. Their visit to Bilbao, in the Basque Country in northern Spain, provided another example of how a port city had found new industrial life in the renewable energy sector.

The study tour emphasized and brought home the critical importance of a stable policy environment for the renewable energy sector. Joerg Mayer, Managing Director of the German Agency for Renewable Energies, explained how the German feed-in tariff and other policies had driven growth in the sector; Thorsten Schneider from E.On, Xabier Viter from Iberdrola Renovables, and many other company representatives echoed this message from a private-sector perspective. The visit to Spain, where flaws in the feed-in tariff led to an unsustainable over-production of solar energy, demonstrated the importance of careful policy design.



"Solucar" plant in San Lucar la Mayor, about 15 km from Seville in Andalusia, Spain
© GMF

The study tour also allowed the delegates to understand how renewable energy – often variable and intermittent depending on the weather conditions – can be integrated at large scale into the electricity grid. During the visit in Madrid to Red Eléctrica de España, the agency responsible for the management of the Spanish electrical grid, the delegates saw in real time how power from wind and solar electricity is balanced with electricity from more traditional coal- or gas-fired power generation.

The study tour wrapped up with an examination of the longer-term prospects for renewable energy. In Hamburg, delegates participated in an expert roundtable on the prospects for "Desertec", a German-led initiative to develop solar power in North Africa for export to Europe. The roundtable also featured discussion of a "Super Smart Grid", a concept for an advanced, high-capacity power-distribution grid that would allow the transmission of power from Europe's periphery to the population centers across the continent. In Spain, delegates saw part of this technology in action: a concentrated solar plant of 300MW installed capacity that is being built near Seville. The project is a commercial, functioning power plant that provided a concrete example of what could be done not just in Europe, via the Desertec project, but also in the United States, which has analogous geographical locations in southern desert states like Arizona, Texas, and California.

For more information on GMF's Climate & Energy activities, please see

<http://www.gmfus.org/climate>

or contact: [Thomas Legge](#), Program Officer, GMF Climate & Energy Program

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www.transatlantic-climate-bridge.org

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