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Imprint

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Climate Alliance news

Sustainable NOW – Climate Alliance offers learning opportunities

Within the EU project, Climate Alliance leads on capacity building in sustainable energy, supported by ICLEI Europe and other technical partners. Guidance is provided to local governments - from pioneers to beginners, for decision-makers and municipal staff. It includes providing support in developing CO₂ emissions inventories and local energy action plans, as well as organising peer-to-peer exchanges and learning opportunities such as great study tours and staff trainee exercises. Through these activities we are also exploring some of the main challenges cities and towns are facing – gaining further understanding on local sustainable energy planning and implementation issues.

<http://www.sustainable-now.eu/?id=7183>

RES Champions League

The newsletter No. 5 of the RES Champions League is now complete. Inform yourself about the European study travel to Brittany, about the rise of solar systems in Pilsen and much more.

<http://www.res-league.eu/european-league/european-newsletters / ?Itemid=363>

POLIS – Solar urban planning

POLIS is a European cooperation project that focuses on implementing strategic town planning and local policy measures to utilize the solar energy capability of structures in European cities. Only a strategic approach by the municipality can enhance the expanding integration of small-scale, decentralized energy applications into the built environment. In the second project newsletter you find information about long-term solar action plans, a best practice manual and much more.

http://www.polis-solar.eu/newsletter/nl_2.html

Relaunch of the website indigene.de

Climate Alliance cooperates with indigenous rainforest peoples in the Amazon basin. In order to represent the cooperation and the situation of the indigenous peoples, Climate Alliance runs the website indigene.de. In the meantime the website was no longer up to date and had to be revised. Now, the moment has arrived: the website is redesigned and also will be filled – little by little – with English and Spanish contents. Look around!

<http://www.indigene.de>

Climate Alliance event

International Annual Conference and General Assembly of Climate Alliance

4 – 7 May 2011 in Munich, Germany

Please save the date.

Amazon news

The Yasuní initiative in Ecuador

Ecuador's government made the proposal to leave about 900 millions tons of oil in the Ishpingo-Tambococha-Tiputini block under the Yasuní national park in the ground if half of the expected revenues will be reimbursed by the international community of states.

Although the German Bundestag approved the initiative unanimously, the development minister Dirk Niebel refuses the deposit into the trust fund for the ITT initiative.

Now, the Spanish foreign minister Trinidad Jiménez has announced that Spain will pay one million Euro for the Yasuní initiative yet in this year. Until now, only Chile has paid 100.000 US dollars merely in order to compensate the Andes state for the oil abstinence in one of the most speciose regions of the world. Altogether, Chile wants to deposit one million dollars in the trust fund.

<http://www.klimaretter.info/umwelt/hintergrund/7305-spanien-zahlt-fuer-yasuni>

Already 100 indigenous people murdered in Colombia

According to statements of the nationwide umbrella organisation of the indigenous peoples of Colombia ONIC (Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia) at least 100 indigenous people have been murdered in this year until now. In the port Tumaco, in the southwest Columbian federal state of Nariño, three members of a criminal gang have now been condemned to long-time imprisonment. The judges found the defendants guilty to murder twelve members of the Awá in August 2009 in the district of La Guayacana, close to the border to Ecuador. Among the victims were a boy of three years and an eight month old infant.

<http://www.npla.de/de/poonal/3094-52-jahre-haft-fuer-moerder-der-awa-indigenas>

Right on prior consent annulled in Peru

The constitutional court of Peru has decided that the right on prior and informed consent of the indigenous population for measures, that involve indigenous territory, is actionable from June 2010 only. This restricts international law, explained the organisation Justicia Viva. The decision contradicts the international agreement on the rights of indigenous peoples that had already been signed by ILO (International Labour Organization) in the year 1995.

Moreover, the decision of the judges contravenes against legal basis of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights CIDH.

<http://kurzurl.net/Peru>

Amazon news

Mega dam Belo Monte in Brazil

Indigenous organisations, environment and human right groups from Brazil have filed a complaint against the Brazilian state because of the planned Belo Monte Dam by the Organization of American States. They refer to violations against international contracts, irregularities during the tender procedure and the contract placing as well as threats of indigenous communities and other residents at the river.

However, the mega dam at the Xingú river in the Amazon rainforest will delay anyway. In the middle of November the Brazilian environment authority Ibama refused the licence necessary for the start of construction, since the operators did not fulfil the requested requirements. In February the environment ministry in Brasilia had been given the environment clearance for Belo Monte, although different expertises had worked out the negative effects of the project for the local economics as well as for the environment. The dam irreparably interferes with the nature and the living conditions of the indigenous communities, such as the reduction of the fishing resource.

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=52021>

European news

Take part in the European Sustainable Energy Week

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) calls upon Europe's local and regional authorities to organise an Energy Day in the framework of the European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) from 11 to 15 April 2011. Energy Day activities, which must promote energy efficiency, this edition's main theme, and more generally, renewable energy, can vary from exhibitions, conferences and online events to performances, workshops and media campaigns. Municipalities, cities and regions can upload their Energy Day initiatives on the website of the EU Sustainable Energy Week. There you also find further information:

<http://www.eusew.eu>

Agrofuels cause massive CO₂ emissions and land use change

The first study to review the indirect land use change (ILUC) impact of the anticipated EU wide increases in the use of agrofuels up to 2020 concludes that European policy does not adequately protect the environment against negative consequences. Based on newly released national plans ILUC will lead to substantial land conversion and, as a consequence, additional greenhouse gas emissions beyond those that would arise from the continued fossil fuel use. The EU targets will cause additional land requirements in the amount of 6.9 million hectares (69,000 square kilometres).

<http://www.ieep.eu/whatsnew/newsitem.php?item=246>

European and US American cities pro climate protection

Committee of the Regions President Mercedes Bresso and Elisabeth B. Kautz, President of the United States Conference of Mayors, have signed at 5 October 2010 a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation on climate action. It strives to accelerate local measures on both sides of the Atlantic to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, to promote renewable energy sources and sustainable urban mobility, as well as to change citizens' behaviour.

<http://kurzurl.net/EUUS>

Further events

Nordic Conference on Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea Region

31 January – 2 February 2011 in Turku, Finland

The conference brings together different actors from local authorities, regional and national level. It enables all interested stakeholders and citizens to take part in the event.

<http://www.solutions2011.fi>

World Sustainable Energy Days 2011

2 – 4 March 2011 in Wels, Austria

Conferences which presented the latest technology trends, outstanding examples and European strategies and the “Energiesparmesse”, an important energy exhibition, offer ideal opportunities to establish new partnerships.

<http://www.wsed.at/en/world-sustainable-energy-days>

European Solardays 2011

1 – 15 May 2011 – Europe-wide

The European Solar Days successfully promote the use of a free unlimited renewable energy source available everywhere to everyone to generate electricity as well as heating and cooling: the sun.

<http://www.solardays.eu>

International Passive House Conference

27 – 28 May 2011 in Innsbruck, Austria

http://www.passivhaustagung.de/fuenfzehnte/englisch/index_eng.html