

Role of energy efficiency in an ambitious climate policy in Germany

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The Kyoto Protocol targets for 2012 are within reach for Germany and the EU, but they are only a first step. Energy-related CO₂ emissions account for over 80% of German GHG emissions. Our current energy use is not sustainable, because we use too much energy and we use mainly energy sources that damage the environment.

Especially use of electricity has increased significantly since 1993. To reach a sustainable energy use, we need to force three equally important aspects: efficient use of (end-) energy, efficient transformation of primary energy sources to end energy and further increased use of renewable energies. Only in this way we can reach the turnaround and uncouple economic growth and energy consumption permanently. This presentation focuses on the first point: efficient use of (end-) energy.

There are measures in all sectors which can be realised with negative or zero additional costs:

- cross-sector technologies in industry (compressed-air systems, lighting, pumps and fans),
- economically feasible measures for small electricity consumers
- buildings sector: passive houses, building improvement, or even calculation of full life-cycle-costs

The main policy instruments for these measures aim to increase the demand significantly: a more ambitious Energy Saving Ordinance (EnEV) for buildings combined with a significantly increased building improvement programme; efficiency races for end-use equipment and energy taxes without exceptions combined with financial support of efficiency measures via an efficiency fund.