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Renewable Energies as a Boost for the Economy

100% Renewables is the most important and effective contribution to climate protection, energy security and economic growth.

Renewable energies in Germany and especially Photovoltaic's have gone through an astonishing industrial expansion in the past decade. 370 000 jobs were created in the renewable energy sector, 120 000 in the solar sector alone. This success even made a fast nuclear phase-out decision justifiable for all political parties in Germany.

The basis for this industrial revolution is a Feed-in Tariff. In 2000, the Energy Sources Act (EEG) set a growth target for renewable electricity of 12.5 % in 2010 (from 6.3 % in 2000). By then, the goal was said to be unrealistic and unachievable. In 2010, 17.4 % of energy generated in Germany was generated by renewables. Meaning, the set target was well exceeded.

Almost 50 countries have copied the idea of an Energy Sources Act, with different outcomes. For an effective Feed-in Tariff, it is essential that the compensation is profitable; the duration of the compensation has to be at least 15-20 years to make it worthwhile; and a privileged grid access for the renewables has to be guaranteed.

If we maintain the current growth rates, Germany will be able to create about 50 % of it's electricity by 2020 from renewable energy sources and 100 % by 2030. Californian scientists Jacobson and Delucchi (Universities of Stanford and Davis) have demonstrated, that it's technologically feasible and economically reasonable to switch the worldwide energy consumption entirely to renewable energies by 2030.

Our experience in Germany shows that protecting the climate by using renewable energy is not a burden but a stimulus to the economy.

Link to "Feed-in Tariff for Renewable Energy: an effective recovery package without new public borrowing", a guide to a successful Feed-in Tariff: http://hans-josef-fell.de/content/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=565&Itemid=77

Link to Corporate Finance and Climate Protection:A Beneficial Alliance http://hans-josef-fell.de/content/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=454&Itemid=77

Link to "A plan for a Sustainable Future" by Jacobson/Delucchi: http://hans-josef-fell.de/content/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=566&Itemid=77

Hans-Josef Fell is a Member of the German Parliament and Spokesperson on energy for the Alliance 90/The Greens parliamentary group. Hans-Josef Fell was the key architect of the German Feed-in Tariff by drafting the Energy Sources Act (EEG) in 2000.