

Energy and nature in the Alps: a balancing act
International final conference of the recharge.green project

20-21 May 2015

Haus Oberallgäu, Sonthofen/Germany



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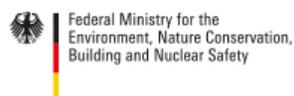
The Alps have great potential for the use of renewable energy, but energy production and use also increases pressures on nature. The recharge.green project looks at the trade-offs between the costs and benefits of renewable energy use. In particular, the project looks at impacts of energy production on ecosystem services. The goal is to achieve sustainably used landscapes where ecosystems and their services to people continue to function, and where energy production is optimised for this purpose.

What are the challenges related to renewable energy use in the Alps? What tools can be used to support decision makers in finding the right balance when planning local or regional energy development? These two questions are at the centre of the final conference of the project. The recharge.green partners have assessed the Alpine potential for biomass, hydropower, solar, and wind energy production, taking into account technical, environmental and social constraints. They will present the tools they have developed to support decision making processes. Representatives from the pilot areas will provide glimpses into their experiences with conflict resolution processes that manage to deal with diverging demands on landscape and nature.

We invite decision makers, representatives of public administrations and authorities, of energy businesses and of NGOs to see how the recharge.green results can make a difference and to discuss with us how renewable energy production and nature conservation in the Alps can be combined. A public evening event, a poster exhibit and an excursion will complete the programme.

Moderation: Heidrun Fammler, Baltic Environmental Forum Group

co-funded by



Wednesday, 20.05.2015

13:00 Welcome coffee and snack, registration

13:30 Nature and energy: challenges of an Alpine town
Christian Wilhelm, Mayor of Sonthofen

13:45 The multiple facets of nature's services to people
Chris Walzer, Research Institute of Wildlife Ecology, University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna

14:00 Two sides of the same coin: the energy transition and its challenges for energy production and nature conservation

Frank Pöhler, Director Hydropower at the Bavarian Electric Power company BEW; Georg Bayerle, mountain and environment specialist at the Bavarian Broadcasting

14:45 Coffee break

15:15 Optimising renewable energy production for continued ecosystem health : main outcomes of recharge.green

Introduction: Energy, biodiversity, trade-offs – making balanced decisions. Chris Walzer

Experts' opinions: a trade-off analysis between renewable energy development and ecosystem services. Alessandro Paletto, Consiglio per la Ricerca e la sperimentazione in Agricoltura

Valuing and mapping ecosystem services for renewable energy planning. Gianluca Grilli, EURAC

Optimizing Renewable Energy Systems in the Alpine Space – balancing production and protection. Florian Kraxner, IIASA

Reconciling renewable energy with nature: some lessons learned in pilot areas. Aleš Poljanec, TBC

Sustainable energy development of the Alpine region: recharge.green for Strategic Environmental Assessment. Daniele Vettorato, EURAC

16:45 Listen, read, discuss: recharge.green poster exhibit and aperitif

The aperitif is offered by the town of Sonthofen.

18:00 Dinner for registered participants

At conference venue

20:00-21:30 Podium discussion: Renewable energy and nature protection in the Oberallgäu – a contradiction?

Public event, no registration needed.

Kareem Banimoosa, Youth Parliament on the Alpine Convention / Sonthofen secondary school; Eike Christiansen, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Construction and Nuclear Safety, Climate protection and energy efficiency Division; Thomas Frey, nature protection association BUND Naturschutz in Bayern; Frank Pöhler, Bavarian Electric Power company; Andreas Scharli, civic foundation Energiewende Oberland; Chris Walzer, Research Institute of Wildlife Ecology, University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, Lead partner of the recharge.green project; Gilles Chomat, Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention

Further Information

Languages: English, German, with simultaneous translation

Participation at the conference and at the meals mentioned in the program is free of charge

Venue: Haus Oberallgäu, Richard-Wagner-Straße 14, 87527 Sonthofen, Germany

www.recharge-green.eu/finalconference

Thursday, 21.05.2015

08:30 Welcome coffee

08:45 Introduction to the day

09:00 The balancing act between energy and nature can succeed in the Alps

Astrid Björnson Gurung, Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL

09:45 Hands-on: how models can help decision makers. Demonstration of the decision support systems developed by recharge.green.

Giulia Garegnani, European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano, Sylvain Leduc, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Pietro Zambelli, EURAC and Marco Ciolli, University of Trento (In two groups)

10:45 Coffee break

11:15 A journey through Europe's mountain areas: case studies from the Alps and other European mountain areas

Lessons learnt and recommendations from experiences with stakeholder involvement processes in the pilot area Bavaria.

Gerhard Haimerl, BEW, Stefan Witty, CIPRA Germany

Involvement of stakeholders and local communities in two Alpine valleys in the Province of Belluno. Francesca Miotello, Veneto Region

Modelling energy demand and optimizing local energy systems in mountain regions: Insights from mountainous Greece.

Dimitris Kaliampakos, National Technical University of Athens Instrument „Sample hectare“ and its implementation in Vorarlberg. Markus Berchtold, Regionalentwicklung Vorarlberg Modeling woody biomass for energy use in Triglav National Park. Rok Pisek, Slovenia Forest Service

12:15 Beyond recharge.green: open questions (podium discussion with the project observers)

Stefano Basso, Eawag;

Matteo Cesca, Veneto Regional Agency for Prevention and Environmental Protection; Ingrid Fischer, Town of Sonthofen / Alpine Town of the Year Association; Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst, Ecological Network Platform of the Alpine Convention;

12:55 Looking ahead: ideas for new initiatives aimed at balancing energy development and nature conservation in the Alpine Space

Eva Stare, Alpine Space Programme

13:10 Closing words

Chris Walzer

13:20 Lunch buffet

14:00 Local solutions for energy transition challenges: field trips

1. Hydropower: Ecological optimisation of a hydropower plant at the river Iller. Visit of the recharge.green pilot activity at Altusried (Transfer by bus)

2. It's all in the mix: energy village Wildpoldsried (Transfer by bus)

3. Wood-fired power plant Sonthofen: energy from local wood for commercial, housing, and public facilities (by foot; ends at 16:00)

17:00 End of conference