

Postulations for the General Assembly

Committee 1: Private Households

Postulation 1: Black for green

Huge amount of energy is used for water heating and the energy used for this purpose could be used for something else or even saved, if we heat the water some other way. It is very reasonable to install tubular thermal collectors that would absorb sun energy due to their black color and provide households with complementary means of heating the water when the sun is shining. This technology works even in colder times of the year as the practical implementations of it show that water could be heated up to 60 degrees Celsius even in colder times of the year, as long as there are temperatures above 10 degrees and as long as there is enough sunlight. So our committee proposes a legislation that would require government or local authorities to offer subsidies to house-owners that decide to heat their water this way. This action could be a financial burden for authorities, to some extent, though without doubt it would still be easily affordable. However, this act would be beneficial so for the households, as they will spend less money on energy, as for the environment because every energy production does some interference with nature and the less we interfere with it, the better it is.

Postulation 2: Say bye to “standby”

The devices that are put on a standby mode when they are not used still waste too much energy. The standby mode represents 5 to 10% of average energy use per household. Therefore we suggest that the governments ban the standby mode and allow only the sale of devices made without it. This policy would apply to entertainment devices excluding mobile phones and computers. If enough countries decide to take this measure the producers will have to adapt. That way the consumers save energy by using an efficient device not having to make an extra effort.

Postulation 3: Tax on excessive energy consumption

We propose a tax on excessive energy consumption. Based on the current average European energy use, the annual energy consumption should be reduced from 6000 to 4000 watts per person. Use above this limit would be heavily taxed, leading all citizens to a more conscious and responsible energy use. To prevent the panic such tax could cause, a promotional campaign would be launched beforehand to inform citizens of the ways to reduce their energy consumption. Experts will be sent by the government to visit homes and show citizens how to optimize their energy use. The experts, paid with the tax money, will then visit the homes again once the tax has been established. They will come every three years to make a “regular” checkup for households under the 4000 watts limit and every year for those above it.

Postulation 4: Website – Green sight

Today the fastest and the most comfortable way to offer information to a large number of people is the internet. Therefore a website should be created to give personalized overview of someone's energy expenses and possible improvements. The users would fill in a form with the information such as the brand and exact name of the appliances they own, time of usage, their current energy expenses and budget for possible improvements. According to their needs they are then presented with a variety of possibilities to reduce their energy consumption adding the financial benefits. The website would suggest exact appliances that can be bought encouraging the producers to offer more energy efficient products. In order to offer the products objectively the website should be independent from the producing companies. It should work also as a source of information on energy saving offered by the professionals and other users of the website.

Committee 2: Public Households

Postulation 1: All public buildings in the Alpine region must reach 150kWh/(m²a) on the German "Energiepass" and A+ on the European label for houses (A+++-D), up to the year 2030.

Reaching this standard requires a better insulation system by improving the biggest causes of energy loss such as windows and walls.

For old buildings there should be benefits of subsidies given by government to improve their insulation system.

People who are interested in improving their insulation system have the opportunity to dispose an expert who will present them suggestions to upgrade their current situation. These experts should be paid by the government to make them affordable for everyone.

Postulation 2: The energy used by street lights in the Alpine region should be reduced for 30% until 2025.

In order to achieve this goal solar panels have to be installed on every street lamp that offers the possibility to use solar energy. Furthermore there should be move detectors installed in rarely used streets. Because of these detectors the light would turn on when people or vehicles pass.

In streets that are used more often or public places the intensity of the light should depend on the natural brightness.

Postulation 3: If we want things to change we must educate our population.

The local government must organize workshops on how to save energy.

Those workshops are obligatory for pupils from first to fourth grade in their schools where they can learn while playing.

There should be workshops in the city hall where everyone could participate.

Upon completion they receive a diploma.

There should be advertisements (e.g. television, newsletter or radio) explaining the advantages and giving tips on how to save energy. They should also give shocking pictures and facts in order to make people aware of their behavior affects the environment.

Utilization of renewable energy sources as a means of decreasing energy consumption and environmental effect of public buildings

I. Recovering normally wasted energy for reuse via heat pump-like and heat exchanger systems

Local governments should adopt wastewater heat recovery systems for the entire region. We endorse the installation of ventilation systems that reuse the outgoing airs' energy, e.g. heat exchanger utilizing ones, on public buildings.

II. Replacing traditional energy sources in order to reduce the consumption of fossil fuel

We recommend buildings are fitted with renewable energy utilizing systems (e.g. solar heating etc.) on the basis of local environmental conditions.

Furthermore we uphold the installation of previously mentioned systems on existing public buildings. These projects are to be financed in part by the central governments of the countries.

Postulation 4: More attractive public transport system

Public transport systems must be improved in order to make people shift from individual to public transport. In consideration of previously analyzed travel behavior this measures must be taken:

- Shorter intervals between rides should be introduced
- Adoption of more means of transport during rush hours
- Expansion of transport network

- Better communication between schools and public transport systems

Implementation of combined tickets:

This means that public transport tickets will deduce an agreed percentage of the admission charge for cultural centers and events. In turn you will be given this combined ticket which is going to be valid both for the cultural centers and the way back home. Those measures are financed by the government.

Committee 3: Private Households

Postulation 1: Local products and labels

Local products should be subsidized by the government in order to support the local economy and thus reducing needless transports that waste fuel. Additionally consumers should be able to distinguish non-local products that are not energy-friendly.

By offering a clear differentiation between the carbon footprints of the products the consumer should be encouraged to favor local economy. A recognizable colored symbol should be printed on the package to inform consumers about the eco-friendliness of the product. If a product is not local it is obviously transported on long distances which implicate an excessive fuel-consumption that can be avoided.

Postulation 2: Minimizing electricity

Small improvements can be made to minimize the total amount of electricity used by private households.

In private households too much energy is wasted by inefficient devices and careless usage. Efficient extension cords such as the “power-saver”, motion sensors and central electric switches help to manage the reduction electric consumption. The establishing of a non-profit organization will help house-owners understand if said technologies can be applied to their homes.

Postulation 3: Electric Cars

We want to encourage the population and industry to use electric vehicles for medium and short distance traveling.

Lowering the costs should be the governments first concern. This can be achieved by a smaller taxation of the electric cars. This financial support should actually encourage consumers to buy this type of cars, therefore boosting the production-sector. Additionally to the economical help the governments should increase the amount of recharging stations available to the public to ensure the continuity of the service.

Postulation 4: Transportation law

Governments should establish a law that allows the creation of specific and emblematic days on which fuel-based private transportation is banned in the town area.

Laws should be made in order to allow the implementation of energy related awareness days in which private transportation is completely banned in towns and conurbation areas (said areas are left at the discretion of the local government). In these days (once a month) the only traffic allowed inside the town should be of emergency vehicles and cheaper and more frequent public transportation. The government can give special permissions to transports of essential products that should be allowed to enter the town only in the early morning (4:00 to 7:00 a.m.)

These days are an excellent chance for widespread advertising.

Committee 4 Public Households

Postulation 1

In order to inform students during their education, we introduce the “Green Week“.

The aim of this week is to raise awareness of energy saving in society. Therefore we believe it is vital to create programs suited to each different age group:

- For kindergarten and primary school students, we suggest a whole week of games and other activities based on energy saving themes.
- By secondary school, students should have certain knowledge on the topic of saving energy; in consequence it is not necessary to guide them through the whole week. On the first day they will be given a theme and some general information. During the week they must prepare a project with the support of teachers and experts, while school lessons are hardly being disturbed. Their work is to be presented on the closing ceremony in front of all school members and their families. Optionally the projects could be shown in public and the school could also turn the “Green Week” into a competition.

In this way we hope to inspire future generations and develop a sustainable attitude toward saving energy.

Postulation 2

We want a bus kilometer system in every alpine country.

The system involves the “Mile Card”, which you can get freely at every local bus station. By swiping it through while going in and out, the card will collect one free kilometer per each ten kilometers spent in a bus. All bus companies are in charge of their own kilometer system. In order to encourage people to use their kilometers up faster, they will expire after a certain period defined by each company (no less than one year). Those collected kilometers can be spent on free tickets that are equivalent to the number of kilometers saved. Thus the society is offered an advantage in using public transports and hence we are making a step toward saving energy.

Postulation 3

All public lighting (e.g. street lamps) must be LED by 2020.

As a duty of the state to reduce energy consumption we demand to change all public lighting in eight years to Light Emitting Diodes (LED), the most efficient available technology. If any of the working lights break down up to the deadline period they must be replaced by LED, once the stock of replacement lights has been finished. This way the incandescent light bulbs will be less produced and hopefully long-term not at all. Therefore the LED technology will improve and become cheaper and more accessible for private households.

Postulation 4

All new public buildings need to pass the “ESS-Test” to be built.

The “ESS-Test” implies a certain level of energy self sufficiency and preservation that can be reached by using the following suggestions:

- renewable energy (e.g. use of solar panels)
- proper insulation (e.g. double glazing)
- an ecologically acceptable heating system (e.g. biomass, geothermal heat pumps)
- recyclable and regional building materials (e.g. wood from local forests)
- rainwater reservoirs (e.g. reservoir for toilet, for garden)

If a percentage of the conditions defined by an expert-committee is not fulfilled the building has to improve its self-sufficiency. Furthermore the law could be expanded to private households.

Postulation 5

We require photovoltaic panels on all possible, affordable and economically sustainable ski lifts.

As winter tourism is one of our main sources of profit, but simultaneously an environmental burden to our nature, it needs to be reformed. To do this, photovoltaic systems have to be installed in places demanded by experts. In this way our image of energy sustainability in the Alps will improve and serve as an example to the rest of the world. All extra electricity that might be produced in summer can be distributed to the public network. As showed by the functioning example in Tenna, Switzerland, the pivoting of the panels according to the position of the sun is even more efficient than a usual solar panel system.

Vaduz, 7th March 2012

