

**ALPSTAR Initial conference**  
27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011  
Chambéry, France

**Climate protection or perspectives for a good live?**

To achieve the 2°C limit for climate change the industrialized nations have to reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by roughly 90%. Also other framework conditions like resource shortages, peak oil, dependency and risk reduction require action.

That is why, after an intensive discussion and participation process, the Vorarlberg provincial government adopted energy autonomy based on renewable energy sources as a long-term policy goal in an unanimous decision.

Energy autonomy can not be achieved simply by replacing fossil fuels. Simultaneously, buildings, mobility and industry needs to significantly lower energy demand. Therefore 10 thematic groups elaborated on the one hand concrete measures, on the other hand they described value-based (vivid) principles to be successful in the realization.

But there is more to come. The 2°C – aim, respectively energy autonomy, is only reachable when energy and resource consumption is decoupled from economic growth. Besides, it has often been neglected within climate discussions that this goal is interlocked with other fundamental questions (like north-south justice, nutrition, biodiversity, chance of prosperity for all).

Technological concepts alone can not reach this ambitious goal. It crucially regards questions of value systems. Only through fundamental changes in behaviour energy independence can be achieved.

This means that even if at first glance it is not obvious, energy autonomy is both a cultural, but also a social project.

In accordance with this insight, the federal state of Vorarlberg is leading a communication campaign “step by step towards energy autonomy” that aims to bring elements of a sustainable lifestyle to the attention of the citizens.

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