

International Survey Results - Now Available!

Sustainable Energy Revolution - What Now?

In 2014 SustainCo - the consulting network for sustainability - conducted a **survey on sustainable energy** in order to get an assessment from international sustainability experts concerning world-wide problems and fundamental solution approaches towards a sustainable energy revolution as well as to launch an **International Sustainability Expert Panel ISEP**.

More than **200 persons from 10 countries**, in particular from Central Europe (“D-A-CH”) and Latin America (Colombia), participated in the study. They covered a broad spectrum of age and professions. Two thirds of the participants considered themselves expert in the field. More than half of them are willing to participate in forthcoming surveys - forming a good start for the panel. The results are available now compiled in a **series of documents** [\[more ...\]](#).

The **evaluation of the setting** indicates as top national **problem fields, rising energy costs, security of energy supply, regional climatic effects**, while **global climatic effects** follow only on rank 4. In Colombia the latter is topped by “exploitation of limited natural resources” and “access of poorer social classes to energy”. The extent to which solution approaches heading into the right direction are recognizable is estimated below average in most spheres. Noteworthy is the larger optimism of the Columbians and the optimism of the Swiss in the research/educational sphere, as well as the generally larger pessimism of the Austrians.

Concerning possible **solution aspects and approaches** a **broad solution mix** is considered important. **Renewable energy, energy conservation/efficiency** take the lead, while **education** is already named on rank 3. Economic approaches (as trade of emission certificates, energy price increases) and storage of CO₂ appear on the lower ranks, while experts still rate the former higher and the latter lower than laymen do. However, nuclear energy is clearly rejected.

A **very high rating** is given to **demand-side technical solutions** concerning the **reduction of the energy consumption** - in particular efficient vehicles, buildings, machines processes - a lower one (with exception in Colombia) to electro mobility. **Behaviourally** the use of sustainable means of transport, sustainable purchasing, heating/cooling/hot water consumption is underlined. Concerning **regenerative energy production**, storage and solar options, smart grids and wind usually take the lead, while bio-mass and bio-fuel appear at the end.

Concerning **main obstacles**, it is noticeable that “lack of technical solution options” comes last, while - particularly within Central Europe - most importance is ascribed to **accommodativeness, lack of will for change/action**. However, in Columbia these are superseded by “lack of perception” and “lack of information/action guidelines”. **Overcoming the obstacles**

requires a broad spectrum of informational, normative, regulative measures on the national as well as global level. Remarkably **the highest importance is attributed to a systemic fundamental change of the international market- and action-system.**

Main starting points for national measures appear to be traffic and buildings in Central Europe, industry in Columbia. The **chance** that a sustainable energy revolution is initiated within the next three years is seen very differently depending on country and context. The Columbians consulted appear more optimistic again - not only in their professional context, but globally as well. Moreover, experts judge the chances more optimistic than layman - giving hope for a turn. **Starting points for next effective steps are at hand on a national and international level.** It is high time to use these effectively in order to overcome remaining economic, societal and political obstacles and to **bring about a sustainable energy revolution in an irreversible way.**

The results have been compiled in the following documents:

- Management Summary (1 page, cf. text above):
<http://www.sustainco.net/isep/energiewende/ISEP-Survey1-ManagementSummary.pdf>
- Overview (3 pages):
<http://www.sustainco.net/isep/energiewende/ISEP-Survey1-Overview.pdf>
- Extended version (22 pages with main figures, textual evaluation, in German):
<http://www.sustainco.net/isep/energiewende/ISEP-Umfrage1-Auswertung.pdf>
- Long version (44 pages, figures and tables for all questions, textual introduction)
<http://www.sustainco.net/isep/energiewende/ISEP-Survey1-Figures-Tables.pdf>

Many thanks to all participants!

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