

Press Release , 2 December 2020

## **Pioneer of the energy transition**

### **Lake Constance Foundation wins European Solar Prize 2020**

Radolfzell (Germany): The Lake Constance Foundation is awarded the European Solar Prize 2020 for its commitment over 25 years. Its tireless and diverse commitment to the expansion of renewable energies, as well as a nature-compatible and socially fair energy transition, was the decisive factor for this important award by EUROSOLAR. The prize has been awarded since 1994 and is considered Europe's most prestigious award in this field.

The European Solar Prize 2020 is given to nine prize winners from seven different nations who are particularly committed to the energy transition. The winners in the categories of municipalities, solar architecture, industry, local/regional associations/associations, mobility, media and education contribute with their outstanding projects to renewable and decentralized energy supply in Europe. The Lake Constance Foundation wins the prize in the category regional organizations.

"The Lake Constance Foundation has been committed to renewable energies since its inception," reports Marion Hammerl, long-time managing director of the Lake Constance Foundation. "So projects like the first solar ship HELIO in Germany were visionary and ahead of their time. But they were a milestone in demonstrating that it is possible to travel on the lake with solar energy! Today, serious thought is being given to electric mobility on the lake," Hammerl continued.

In the case of bioenergy, an uncomfortable and conflicting topic of the energy turnaround, the Lake Constance Foundation pointed out the necessity of an ecologization of cultivation at an early stage. "Wild plant mixtures for bioenergy combine biodiversity and energy production and the consistent use of waste heat in biogas plants are demands that are taken for granted today, but which have required a lot of work in the region and beyond," explains Volker Kromrey, program manager for energy system transformation at the Lake Constance Foundation.

### **Working together for the energy transition**

One reason for the success of the work of the Lake Constance Foundation is the approach of seeking exchange with different stakeholders in all difficult or less difficult areas of energy system transformation. Thus, all international or national projects are dialogue-oriented. Current projects in the field of energy system transformation call for a greater use of renewable energies and describe a way to achieve this for the protection of the environment and the well-being of nature, without forgetting acceptance and enthusiasm for energy system transformation. Current projects in the field of energy system transformation, such as the [Coalescce](#), [SocialRES](#) and [CSSC-Lab](#), call for greater use of renewable energies and describe a way in which this can be achieved to protect the environment and benefit nature, without forgetting the acceptance and enthusiasm for energy system transformation.

"12 years ago, a regional newspaper already ran a headline on the occasion of a won national competition - you are now playing in the national league! Today we can proudly say that we have made it into the European league", remembers Volker Kromrey. "The Lake Constance Foundation is very pleased about this international recognition and is motivated to continue promoting the energy turnaround in the next 25 years. Much remains to be done!

#### Background:

For EUROSOLAR President and Chairman of the Jury, Prof. Peter Droege, the award-winning projects are perfect examples of the ongoing transformation of the energy system: "Today's award winners show how the world can become completely renewable, a generative reality - wonderful ambassadors of the Renewable Earth Decade, which EUROSOLAR is calling for. In view of the obvious fossil climate threat, all central energy systems, including those based on nuclear resources, must now be dismantled and replaced, in a mobilization of all renewable resources for a decentralized and renewable supply. For all those who still have hope for the preservation of life on earth, there is no alternative to immediately end the burning of all fossil resources - coal, natural gas and oil. The European solar prize winners of EUROSOLAR show how it works".

Prof. Claudia Kemfert, renowned energy scientist from Germany and winner of the German Solar Prize, emphasized the importance of renewable energies for climate protection in her video message to the prize winners. "Solar energy and wind energy as team players plus battery storage not only secure a decentralized energy system, but also create resilience, make us independent of wars over fossil fuels of any kind and can beat three crises with one stone: the energy crisis, the economic crisis and the climate crisis," said Kemfert. "We are indeed in a time of change. Corona has changed everything. But the new start from the crisis can also be an opportunity. An opportunity for real change".

Because of the pandemic, the award ceremony was held from afar and was broadcast live this year. The unusual circumstances had no influence on the enthusiasm of the winners, who proudly presented their solar prize cups in front of the camera. The prize honors the commitment and inventiveness of the regional players and gives new impulses for a renewable and decentralized energy turnaround in Europe.

#### Further information:

[www.eurosolar.org](http://www.eurosolar.org)

[www.bodensee-stiftung.org](http://www.bodensee-stiftung.org)

You can find pictures of the award ceremony here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xbbihtkmxn12axe/AACwuWM4QW6OuRKp5d-GjKLEa?dl=0>

Contact us:

Volker Kromrey, Program Manager Energy Transition

[volker.kromrey@bodensee-stiftung.org](mailto:volker.kromrey@bodensee-stiftung.org),

+49 163-3122678

The nine winners of the European Solar Prize 2020:

Category: cities, municipalities, city districts, public utilities

- Isle of Eigg, Scotland

For their community owned, managed and maintained autonomous energy network, which supplies all residents with electricity from renewable energy sources.

Category: Solar Architecture and Urban Planning

- FELIX PARTNER Architecture and Design, Switzerland

For the conversion of the 350-year-old Engadine building ensemble into a traditional and at the same time modern zero-energy house.

Category: Industrial and commercial companies or farmers

- Camping Car, S.L., Spain

For the creation of the eco-friendly camping-bungalow complex La Ballena Alegre, Costa Brava.

Category: Local or regional associations / organizations

- Bodensee-Stiftung, Germany

For their versatile work and reliable commitment to renewable energies for over 25 years.

Category: Transport and mobility

- Ærø Municipality, Denmark

For the electric ferry ELLEN, which demonstrates the great potential of green electric mobility in shipping.

Category: Media

- Platform against nuclear hazards Salzburg (PLAGE), Austria

For the campaign work on the dangers of nuclear energy and the new short video "Quit EURATOM".

- Johanna Jaurich, Germany

For raising awareness of the ecological and social impact of coal power with her film "My Future without Coal - Three People, One Story".

Category: Education and vocational training

- School Roof Revolution, Netherlands

To support and facilitate the installation of PV systems on all suitable roofs of Dutch schools.

Category: One-World-Cooperation

- Social Business (B)Energy, Germany

For the provision of biogas for remote rural households through mobile biogas technology.