

SolarGeneration

Hey everybody,

this is an update from Solargeneration Germany. After we had a more quiet Solargeneration-Year in 2006, this year was supposed to get more excited again: Germany was leading the EU in the first half year of 2007 as well as being host for the G8. So enough jobs to do

We had a preparation-phase from march on - developing ideas, activities and messages together with a team of our greenpeace-youth. The entire may was our 'SolarGen-Month', since all of our three main-activities came up within 4 weeks time - and all of them took place in Berlin. Additionally to that, there were quite some events and activities, that were related to SolarGeneration. So let's give you an update on that:

We started in the beginning of May with the McPlanet Kongress in Berlin: The McPlanet.com conferences entered their third round in 2007. Building on the success of the previous conferences in 2003 and 2005, McPlanet 2007 was once again bringing together more than 1,500 experts, citizens and activists. This time, McPlanet.com focused on energy and climate policy in particular - aiming to chart a just path to a future that avoids climate chaos.

This time again Greenpeace Youth and the Youth of BUND the German organisation affiliated to Friends of the Earth, invited a discussion forum going under the motto '**Let's change the change**', at McPlanet's Climate of Justice congress. About 70 'JAGs' (abbreviation Greenpeace Youthgroups) and as many 'BuJus' - the young people at Greenpeace and BUND - have been there. But they have not been on their own: with them were international Greenpeace support by SolarGeneration from China, India, Slovakia, the Philippines. They wanted to throw light on a quite different aspect at the youth forum at McPlanet, and talked about justice within their generation. After all, there are young people their age all over the world, and despite great distances and cultural differences they are one generation faced by the same task - to halt climate change and save the world. They compared a day in the life of young people from above mentioned countries, by means of a photo story in order to make themselves aware of different lifestyles on different continents and their influence on the climate. They discussed issues like differences in their lifestyles and their responsibilities in protecting the climate - and they saved CO2 by doing this live via internet. Thanks to Adonis Lee from Peking, Bashka from Bratislava (who could attend personally), Raju Ranjan Kumar Paswan and his friend Deepak aus Neu Dehli, Denise Matias from the Philippines and Tilman from Bamberg/Germany giving their stories and participating in that discussion. Thanks as well to all the coordinators from different offices for supporting this idea.

But there was not only discussion - they took action too. Spontaneously they took small-scale, colourful, creative action on behalf of the climate on the streets of Berlin. They tried out new methods of taking action on the streets, methods far removed from "tried and trusted display stands", to move people to protect the climate. The objective: get people rolling up their sleeves and saying to themselves, Let's change the change! We're going to get down to it now!

ClimateCamp

Right from the McPlanet-Congress we changed locations in and opened up a ClimateCamp right in front of the German Parliament-Building for four days. A couple of more weeks to go until the G8 and still enough time to get into discussion with the decisionmakers - the objective: get a 'yes' from as much members of the German parliament as possible to support the demand of the German Greenpeace



climate campaign: reducing 40% CO2-Emissions until the year 2020 in Germany - and create an example for other industrialized nations to follow! Greenpeace volunteers have been involved as well as SolarGeneration.

The youth have invited all members of parliament to discuss with them about climate change and climate policies of the German parliament, especially their personal opinions about that. Almost 40 members of parliament came and discussed with the youth - e.g. the undersecretary (vize-minister) for environment, several group leaders of the different parties in the parliament as well as several members of parliament who are in charge for climate- and energy-issues within their party. At the end of these four day activities, the vice-president of the parliament came and the youth handed over an alarm-clock with the message: Get up - save the Climate! Additionally, the youth was invited to different sessions of the different groups within the parliament, so they were able to bring their message to a broad audience of members of parliament.



All in all Volunteers and SolarGeneration got feedback from 422 Members of Parliament out of 613. A clear majority of 259 supports our demands - good tool to put more pressure on the German government for a stronger climate-policy.

Thanks to Cheng from China and Miko from the Philippines supporting those activities. It was a pleasure to have you guys in Berlin!

Greendays

As every year in May the youth groups of Greenpeace Germany meet - they call it Greendays. It's kind of a Skillshare-Event with a lot of Workshops, get-togethers, fun, a party and every year as well: an activity. This year, they participated in one of the largest street-parades in Germany, which is called Carnival of Cultures. With about 250 young people, they created a huge performance, where they made climate change a matter of discussion - its reasons as well as its consequences and this in a creative way - 800.000 people were watching this parade and it was widely broadcasted and our SolarGeneration-Block was the largest in the entire parade - a great public outreach option for Greenpeace, SolarGeneration and the issue of climate change.

Thanks again to Cheng and Miko for presenting their SolarGeneration-Projects at the Greendays! It is always a great spirit to know, that people from all over the world are aiming for the same!



Lisa in Asia - Skillshare, IPCC, ADB

You are all aware of the updates from the Skillshare, IPCC and ADB in Asia - most of you have been there :) Lisa was there as a delegate from Germany as well and she was very inspired by the experiences and friends, she was able to make there. Thanks to all, who made that possible! Just a small update from the GP Germany side: The ADB-Meeting was parallel to the McPlanet-Congress and Lisa handed over a Petition from the youth-participants on the McPlanet to the undersecretary of the German Ministry of

development, whom she met. The content: demand that supported the GP-work in regard to the ADB. She was offered to get an answer on this and right now Lisa and Daniel Mittler/GPI drafted a letter to remind her of that promise. Let's see, what an answer we get!

SolarGeneration-Representative at the Arche Noah at Mount Ararat in Turkey

On very short notice, we had the opportunity to send one young person from SolarGeneration to Turkey in order to support the activities at Mount Ararat, where an Arche Noah was build up in the run up to G8 to urge the governments to take ambitious actions for the climate. Timo, a young volunteer from the Greenpeace Youth has been part of a young delegation that read the declaration to the leaders of the world

Greenpeace Youth meets Horst Köhler/President of the Federal Republic of Germany

How do we handle cutlers, glasses and conversation while having lunch with the german head of state? This and other questions came into the mind of four of our young volunteers as they have been invited at lunch with Horst Köhler. He invited 40 young people to honour their volunteer-work in different fields. Next to him other representatives like Klaus Töpfer, former Head of UNEP, joined the lunch and Larissa, Mirjam, Hubertus and Timo had the opportunity to talk to them about their engagement, especially in regard to climate issues. Sorry, no Solar-Gen-Shirt, Dresscode was very formal :)



Now we are taking a summer break - talk to you soon and hopefully see you at the Skillshare!

Nicole and Markus for SolarGeneration in Germany