



Germany is currently reviewing its National Climate Protection Programme to facilitate its commitment to reduce GHG emissions ^{(1) (2)}. With emissions from industry and energy sectors now mostly covered by emissions trading, one of the actions to fall out of this programme involves shifting its focus to the private household and transport sectors.

In this context, climate protection and renewable energy topics are now also on the education agenda. This is a prominent step forward in recognising these issues' importance for the future.

As part of on going efforts, The National Focal Point for education on climate change (established by the Federal Environment Ministry) is aiming to ensure that educational climate protection activities are successfully promoted throughout the country.

Examples of educational programmes undertaken in Germany include:

- **BLK Programme 21**, launched in 1999, to illustrate how lessons on sustainability topics could be designed. Planning for a new programme, Transfer 21, is currently underway, aiming to reach 4,500 schools over the next four years.

- **Acquiring Scientific Literacy using climate change protection as an example**, a pilot programme that investigated the teaching of sustainability topics. Its findings provided a basis for educational materials offering up-to-date information, in addition to practical examples and suggestions (www.bmu.de/bildungsservice).

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(1) Green House Gas

(2) To reduce emissions to 21% less than 1990 levels by 2008-2012





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- **“The Changing Climate - Ideas for Environmental Education”**, a brochure and CD ROM providing a brief overview of facts, trends, outcomes and suggested activities relating to climate protection.
 - **“Climate Change - The Real Picture of the Earth” & Climate Expedition**, two separate presentations using satellite pictures to illustrate anthropogenic activity over the last 2,000-3,000 years.

In addition to educational activities, public relations campaigns have been undertaken to tackle the issue of climate protection promotion. Such campaigns included the Climate Protection Campaign which focused on reducing CO₂ emissions from buildings and Atmosfair, a project addressing the effect of air travel on climate change.

Current activities have resulted in huge support from local authorities, NGOs and civil society- all key in influencing and shaping future decision making processes. This support was reflected in the 2004 Climate Relay, where a baton was carried 4,000km, through 16

of Germany's states, by over 15,000 participants via environmentally sound modes of transport. The baton contained the Climate Relay Declaration signed by all Germany's regional states.

The EECN is DG Environment's support structure for the European Environmental Communication Networks. Currently these include the Green Spiders Network and The Network of Urban Forums for Sustainable Development.

The website can be accessed here:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/networks/index_en.htm

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