


 Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

 OSCE Deutschland 2016

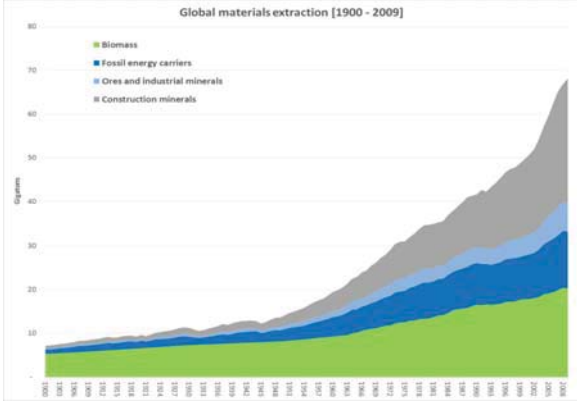
## Resource Efficiency as a win-win for business and society

**Birgit Schwenk**  
Head of Division "European and International Aspects of Resource Efficiency, Raw Materials Policy"  
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

 Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

 OSCE Deutschland 2016

## Global resource consumption



Ref.: Krausmann et al. (2009): Growth in global materials use, GDP and population during the 20th century, Ecological Economics Vol. 68, Nr. 10, 2696-2705, Version 1.2 (August 2011), www.uni-klu.ac.at/socec/inhalt/3133.htm

**Resource use:**

- Doubled in last 30 years
- Adverse impacts on the environment

**Drivers:**

- Population growth
- Growth in prosperity

**2050: ?**

- 9.2 billion people
- Resource Use: ???

Birgit Schwenk, 1<sup>st</sup> Preparatory Meeting of the OSCE 24<sup>th</sup> Economic and Environmental Forum, Vienna, 25-26 January 2016 2

## Why resource efficiency?

### Challenges:

- Costs: rising and highly volatile prices
- Access: scarcities, trade barriers, social concerns
- Environment: emissions, waste, land use, biodiversity loss

### Benefits of a more efficient use of raw materials:

- ✓ Lower costs
- ✓ Decrease dependency on imports
- ✓ Decrease vulnerability to rising and volatile prices
- ✓ Result in higher competitiveness and secure jobs
- ✓ Decrease adverse effects on the environment
- ✓ Secure our natural capital for future generations

## Germany: Strong economic drivers for RE

**Export-oriented economy** with strong industrial base

Germany **depends on imports** of raw materials

⇒ rich in minerals, but 66.8 % of metals imported

Materials account for **45 % of costs** in German manufacturing sector

⇒ (labour costs: 19%; energy less than 3%)

Prices: **highly volatile; rising costs** of high-tech metals

→ **Resource efficiency is a business strategy**

## German Resource Efficiency Programme (ProgRes)

### National Target:

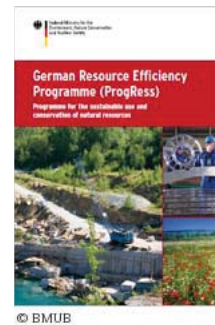
**Double Raw Materials Productivity by 2020 against 1994**

### Goals:

- ✓ **Decouple economic growth from resource use**
- ✓ Reduce environmental impacts of resource use
- ✓ Improve competitiveness of German industry

### Concept:

- Measures along the **whole value chain**
- Broad **stakeholder** involvement
- Programme to be **reviewed** every 4 years



→ **Work on ProgRes II already in progress**

## German Resource Efficiency Programme (ProgRes)

Sustainable Raw Materials Supply	Resource Efficient Production	Resource Efficient Consumption	Closed Cycle Management	Overarching Instruments
Raw Materials Strategy	Information and Support for SMEs	Awareness Raising	Product Responsibility	Support for Faster Market Uptake
Sustainable Use of Renewable Materials	Efficient Production Processes	Sustainable Consumer Decisions	Optimizing Recycling	Research
	Environment Audits	Certification Schemes	Prevention of Illegal Exports	Legal Framework
	Product Design	Public Procurement		Technology & Knowledge Transfer
	Standardisation			EU / International

## German Resource Efficiency Programme (ProgRes)

Sustainable Raw Materials Supply	Resource Efficient Production	Resource Efficient Consumption	Closed Cycle Management	Overarching Instruments
Raw Materials Strategy	<b>Information and Support for SMEs</b>	Awareness Raising	Product Responsibility	Support for Faster Market Uptake
Sustainable Use of Renewable Materials	Efficient Production Processes	Sustainable Consumer Decisions	Optimizing Recycling	Research
	Environment Audits	Certification Schemes	Prevention of Illegal Exports	Legal Framework
	Product Design	Public Procurement		Technology & Knowledge Transfer
	Standardisation			EU / International

## Example: resource efficiency in SMEs

### Why support resource efficiency in SME?

- 23 mio. SMEs in Europe - **backbone of European economy**
- SME-specific **market failures**: information deficits, low awareness, difficult access to finance for resource efficiency improvements
- Average **cost savings** of 200,000 Euros p.a. per SME through low-cost or no-cost investments in resource efficiency

### Policy Measures:

- **State-sponsored consultancy services** for SMEs on resource efficiency
- Establishment of **Resource Efficiency Competence Center** (VDI ZRE with German Association of Engineers)
- Large-scale **information campaign** targeted at SME decision-makers
- **Preferential loans** for investment in RE (with KfW banking group)
- Eco-Innovation Programme: **support for innovation** in material efficiency



## International efforts: SDGs

- 8.4 *Improve progressively, through 2030, **global resource efficiency in consumption and production** and endeavor to **decouple economic growth from environmental degradation**, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead.*
- 9.4 *By 2030, upgrade **infrastructure** and retrofit **industries** to make them sustainable, with **increased resource-use efficiency** and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.*
- 12.2 *By 2030, achieve the **sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources**.*



## International efforts: G7 process

### German G7 Presidency 2015

put resource efficiency on G7 Agenda



### Decisions of G7 summit:

- **Commitment** to ambitious action to protect natural resources and use them efficiently
- **G7 Alliance on Resource Efficiency**: Forum to exchange best practices in G7 and with stakeholders
- **Request to International Resource Panel (IRP)** for synthesis report on potentials and promising solutions for all countries
- **Request to OECD** for policy guidance

### Japanese Presidency 2016 continues work stream



## International Resource Panel (IRP)

- Body of ~ 35 eminent scientists
- Established in 2007, hosted by UNEP
- Provides independent and authoritative scientific assessment on the sustainable use of natural resources and the environmental impacts of resource use over the full life cycle.
- Balanced representation of industrialized and developing countries
- Steering Committee of Government representatives and international institutions co-chaired by EC and UNEP
- More information: [www.unep.org/resourcepanel](http://www.unep.org/resourcepanel)



## Support by OSCE for resource efficiency?

- **Continue to engage in regional and cross-border environmental co-operation**
  - ⇒ generates momentum for peace in areas of political tension
- **Extend scope to enhancing resource efficiency:**
  - ✓ awareness-raising and information campaigns
  - ✓ exchange on political strategies and business best practice
  - ✓ coordinate and disseminate information material - adapted to respective regional requirements (language, economic, cultural and geographic circumstances)

## Lessons learnt in Germany

- Resource Efficiency is a **process**
- Needs commitment and initiative by **many actors**  
policy-makers, business, science, civil society, regions
- Close involvement of all **stakeholders**
- Provide **long-term orientation** for business
- “can do”: Exchange and co-operation on **best practices**
- Soft measures: **awareness-raising**, information, education
- Helpful: **strong political underpinning** in national  
sustainability strategy and national target

**Thank you for your attention!**

Questions?

→ [birgit.schwenk@bmub.bund.de](mailto:birgit.schwenk@bmub.bund.de)

