

**2008 CDS/InWEnt Transatlantic Renewable Energy Exchange Report**

by Chris Detjen

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## **1. Summary of activities, June 2—August 15, 2008**

During my internship in the Renewable Energies Division of the Deutsche Energie Agentur (German Energy Agency), I executed the following set of tasks under the guidance of Ms. Alexandra Lermen, Mr. Jens Altevogt, and Dr. Christine Wörlen, the director of the Division.

### Canadian Solar Industries Association Ontario IPSP consulting project

- I participated in (approximately) bi-weekly conference calls with dena's partners at the Canadian Solar Industries Association.
- I contributed research and writing to dena's English-language Preliminary Report on the Ontario Integrated Power System Plan (IPSP). Specifically, I helped prepare this report's Executive Summary, "Purpose of Report" section, "Solar Thermal Water Heating" section, and "Characteristics of the Supply Mix Directive" section. Together, these sections comprised about six of the report's 38 single-spaced pages. I also edited most sections of the report for clarity and correctness.
- I contributed research and writing to dena's English-language Supplementary Report on the Ontario IPSP. Specifically, I helped prepare this report's sections on "The Role of Time-of-Use Metering and PV: An Example from California and Conclusions for Ontario" and "Peak Shaving Avoids New Power Lines." Together, these sections comprised about five of the report's 30 single-spaced pages. I edited other sections of the report for clarity and correctness.

### BiogasPartner.de

- I provided polished English-language translations for sections of dena's BiogasPartner.de website, including its "Welcome," "About the Project," "Supply Map," "Biomethane Value Chain," and "Contact" pages. These translated sections contained about 30 pages of single-spaced text.
- I provided content and formatting work for an English version of the Biogas Partnership's informational brochure.

### Offshore-Wind.de

- I prepared brief German- and English-language summaries of a European Wind Energy Association report about the potential for future offshore wind development for dena's Offshore-Wind.de website.

### dena Solar Roof Programme press releases

- I provided polished two-page English-language translations for press releases about dena Solar Roof Programme events in Australia, Indonesia, and Jordan.

## Miscellaneous

- I translated other dena employees' PowerPoint presentations on subjects including the June 2008 amendments to the German government's renewable energies law (EEG) and the European Union's Integrated Energy and Climate Programme from German into English.
- I helped translate two dena publication order forms—for dena's EU-27 Subsidy Overviews on Photovoltaics and Renewable Heating—from German into English.
- I assisted other dena employees with the drafting of numerous English-language e-mails.

## **2. My summer internship and my career plans**

I plan to dedicate my career to resolving the climate challenge, primarily within the domain of energy. I have long recognized that climate protection efforts must embrace all nations if they are to be effective. This irretrievably international element of the push for climate protection provides both challenges and exhilarating twists to young professionals like me. My internship at the Deutsche Energie Agentur gave me further exposure to the global nature of the renewable energy industry. Indeed, through my internship, I learned about the climate protection and clean energy development activities of organizations in Canada, Jordan, Indonesia, Australia, Spain, and the United States *in addition* to Germany. My internship also provided me with an improved understanding of Germany's advanced policy solutions to modern climate and energy problems, such as its feed-in tariff, which has made renewable energy producers of ordinary electricity consumers everywhere. My knowledge of the feed-in tariff is assisting me already: in Michigan, where I am currently living and applying for jobs in the clean energy and environmental advocacy sectors, a feed-in tariff was recently introduced in the state legislature. A key challenge now lies in helping others in the Michigan policy community understand the power of the tariff more fully so that they may support it in the legislature; I expect my experiences in Germany this summer will be of some help here.

Through my summer in Berlin, I also gained contacts that will be valuable to me in my future endeavors. These include the other employees from the Renewable Energies Division, with whom I developed working relationships that were mostly strong, mutually respectful, and trusting. But they also include people I met through energy-related events in Berlin—particularly the “[Sei Erneuerbar!](#)” panel discussion and comedy event organized by the [Berliner Energie Agentur](#), which numerous young German environmental leaders attended—and through my own private social circle.

### **3. My housing arrangements, host community, contact with Germans, and spare time activities**

In Berlin, I lived in a small apartment being leased for the summer by Katja Sittig, a friend of a friend of a friend of my parents in the United States. I had a roommate, Arnd Heissen, a 26 year-old bartender from Frankfurt, who leased the other bedroom in the apartment during the summer. The apartment was very comfortable, although it lacked a working washing machine for about a week following my arrival. My interactions with Arnd were pleasant, and I consider him a friend now. My interactions with the apartment's owner, Katja, were also mostly pleasant, although there was tension between us in the last weeks of my stay: she was concerned that I was too messy, and I was concerned that she was living and sleeping in the apartment's kitchen for weeks on end despite having told me and Arnd she would be staying in the country to work on a book during our time in Berlin.

My contact with locals was mostly positive. I came to know several local businesspeople over the summer, including the manager of the 24-hour convenience store around the corner from my apartment and the owners of the bakery where I bought breakfast most days on my way to work. These people were friendly to me, and I was friendly to them. I did have several encounters with store owners and grocery store clerks who were annoyed by my inability to understand their rapid German. Germans, I learned, are not the most cordial people in the world to strangers.

My experiences with the friends I made in Germany were much better than this, however. For the most part I interacted with other young Americans and internationals, all of whom I met quite randomly at places like bars and public parks. I hung out a fair amount with three other University of Michigan students, a Georgia Tech student, and an MIT student living in Berlin for the summer; in addition to this, I befriended several young people from the Balkans (specifically Serbia, Croatia, and Albania). Of course, I also spent a fair amount of time with my German roommate, Arnd, and the many German friends and colleagues of the other international students. With these other American and international students, I traveled to the Love Parade (a large techno music festival) in Dortmund in July. I also traveled to Bonn and Cologne in June to see Hannah Bent and Franz Berkemeier, two other TREE interns. And I had the opportunity to see all of the other TREE interns when they visited Berlin for the CDS/InWEnt reception at the Rote Rathaus.

I became good friends with a German girl named Kyra Hartig over the summer. Although I only actually spent time with her on a few occasions—once in Berlin, where we first met, and once in Cologne, where she lives—we were very deliberate about keeping in contact with each other, and our friendship blossomed over the summer despite limited face-to-face contact.

In my (fairly limited) spare time, I trekked around Berlin with my friends, worked on my then-incomplete Honors thesis for the University of Michigan, and played soccer.

#### **4. Summary**

I had an excellent experience in Berlin this summer, both professionally and personally, and I thank CDS and InWEnt for making it possible.

#### **4. Photos**

Me in front of the Deutsche Energie Agentur office complex in Berlin

Me with my supervisor at dena, Ms. Alexandra Lermen, at the dena office in Berlin

Me having an after-work drink in Berlin with dena interns Thomas and Daniel (second from left and far right) and Felix (far left), a friend of Daniel's

Me at lunch in Berlin with Viola, a dena intern (far left), and Johannes and Iva, two personal friends (second from left and second from right)

Me at dinner in Speyer with Dietmar Will, a family friend

Me in Speyer with Steffi and Dietmar Will, two family friends, with a statue of Jakob Spilger (left) and the Kaiserdom zu Speyer (background)