



Strengthening Sustainable Resource and Efficiency Politics in Europe

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Resource Scarcity

- Fossil fuels (e.g. oil, gas)
- Base Metals; Rare earth metals
- Material inputs
- Water
- Biodiversity

Global Challenges linked to Resource Politics

- Climate change
 - Biodiversity loss
 - Water shortages
 - Agriculture pressures/food security
 - Population growth
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- Economic Development

Tipping Points

- Climate change
- Biodiversity loss
- Fish populations
- Tropical rainforests
- Water...

Growth (Economic and Population) Bringing us to the Edge?

- Housing, industrial development—loss of large natural areas
- Infrastructure highways—(road, rail, pipelines, electric systems...) slicing the planet
- Monoculture in agriculture
- Growing demands for resources

Inequality in Resource Use

- Richest 500 million (about 7.5% of global pop) emit 50% of global CO₂ emissions
- Richest 15% emit close to $\frac{3}{4}$ of all CO₂

Getting Resource Scarcity and Efficiency on the European Agenda?

Commission Communication (Feb 2011), “Tackling the Challenges in Commodity Markets and on Raw Materials”

- Surging demand for raw materials and volatility in prices
- Energy, oil, gas
- Agriculture and food
- Raw materials

EU Raw Materials Initiative

Identifying critical raw materials (those likely to face shortages, found in only a few places, or located in unstable regions; or those where recycling is limited)

Recycling

Need for:

- increased recycling
- recycling targets tied to scarcity of resources and environmental damage associated with extraction
- implementation

Europe 2020 strategy for resource efficiency

- energy efficiency
- resource efficiency
- improved product design

- improved European infrastructure
(e.g. transport infrastructure)

2020 strategy for resource efficiency

- Creating win-wins: e.g. improved recycling resulting in lower CO2 emissions
- Improving information/knowledge about resources
- Creating a “circular economy”

Thinking about Growth

- Club of Rome
- Meadows: Limits to Growth
- Herman Daly: Steady State Economy
- Martin Jaenicke, Arthur Mol: Ecological Modernization
- E. U. von Weizsäcker: Faktor 5

Green Growth Solutions?

- Hightened resource and energy efficiency
- More recycling
- Technological Solutions
- Dematerializing Production
- Enhanced Focus on Services
(Dienstleistungen)

Limits to Green Growth?

- Degrowth Movement (Shrinking of Economy)
- Wohlstand ohne Wachstum (Life Quality without Growth)
- Growth, but only when it does not reduce/destroy natural capital

Need for New Measures

- Problems with GDP (BIP)
- Happiness Indicator
- Sustainability Indicators

Need for New Understandings

- In which areas of the economy are limits real?
- How to evaluate production based on renewable, versus non-renewable resources?
- How to maximize dematerialization, green growth, decoupling

Need for New Policies, New Approaches

- New approaches to investment
- New approaches to planning
- Reconsidering what is subsidized
- Rewards for sustainable production
- Pricing of unsustainable production
- Greater need to look at entire systems and their ecological impact
- Greater international cooperation...