

Contribution of the "Viennese Ombuds-Office for environmental protection"

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How should a biofuel sustainability system be designed?

1.

Such a system should take into account the real CO₂-Balance of biofuels, including infrastructure, cultivation, production, transport.

A Swiss study from EMPA, St. Gallen in 2007 shows, that biofuels are not at all CO₂-neutral. Biofuels from rape and soya show a similar CO₂-Balance than fossil fuels.

2.

Additionally a sustainable system should take an accurate look at the acreages, where biofuels can be produced and answer first of all the following questions:

What is the most sustainable use for this acreage?

Does this area show a high biodiversity?

Is it more useful to produce food for the local population or wood (for the paper, furniture or textile industry) instead of biofuels to avoid imports of food or important products or even hunger in some developing countries?

If we answer these questions honestly, we will find out, that the potential for the production of biofuels is rather low. European aims as 10% biofuel share are not sustainable by the actual fuel consumption in the EU.

Biofuels should be produced primarily from biogenous waste materials (biofuels of the second generation), such as crop residues.

Biofuels from rape or corn should only be used to operate the agriculturally used vehicles in the region.

To mitigate CO₂-Emissions we first of all should reduce individual transport, and use more efficient drive systems such as electric motors, etc...

Biofuels are no decisive solution to protect our climate.

What further action is needed to make it possible to achieve a 10% biofuel share?

We should not try to achieve this aim at the moment.

First of all, we should try to reduce our fuel consumption seriously (much more than 10%). Then we can talk about aims for biofuel share.