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Waste treatment

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Dear Mr. Schmidt- Pathmann,

I thank you very much for your phone-call last week and the visit in Germany on march 22nd.

With regard to Waste- treatment and the emission of GHG I can inform you as follows:

Waste treatment and the emission of gases and leachate plays an important role in waste-legislation in Germany and also in Europe since a long time. Especially in the 80-ies in Germany a lot of studies and a lot of research were implemented, especially because of dangerous leachate and the emission of hazardous gas – in the beginning of these discussions not because of greenhousegas. With the beginning of discussions about the Greenhousegas it was realized that landfills with untreated waste belong to the most relevant sources for methane-emissions on the national and also on a global level.

Because of the different harms resulting from the landfilling of untreated waste we came to restrictions for the landfilling of waste and since June 1st 2005 it is no longer allowed to landfill untreated waste from human settlements.

Between 1990 and 2003, total emissions of greenhouse gases in Germany were reduced by 18% (to 1,017.5 million t CO2 equivalent). In the National Inventory Report (NIR), some 20 million t CO2 equivalent are attributed to the waste sector as a result of the landfill ban alone. Thus the waste industry has achieved the contribution it was expected to make to the reduction target of the National Climate Protection Programme 2000. A further saving of 8.4 million t CO2 equivalent by 2012 is forecast as a result of the closing down of landfill sites. For the period from 1990 to 2012 this results in a reduction of 28.4 million t CO2 equivalent, which under the Federal Government's decision of 13 July 2005 (BMU 2005a) is attributed to the landfill disposal path in the National Climate Protection Programme.

A study (Waste sector's Contribution to climate protection) financed by our ministry , the federal agency for environmental protection, the nature-protection federation (NABU) and the Organisation of private waste collectors shows that there is a reduction potential for GHG of at least 74 mio t /year in 15 member-states of the EU by closing down the traditional land-



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fills. I can say that there is a very broad agreement in Europe about the fact that traditional landfilling should not be continued.

I add this study to this mail.

As additional study I enclose the results of an Austrian research for the Environmental ministry of that country in which the data according to GHG are put together very precisely. The name of this study is : "Klimarelevanz der Abfallwirtschaft" , printed in 1998. You probably can obtain this study from our colleagues in Vienna/Austria.

I am sorry, I do not know whether an English version of this study exists.

The main results of the study are that over a period of 10 years (and also over 30 years) the best way to treat waste with regard to GHG is the waste-incineration with use of produced power and use of other energy. The next best solutions would be the so-called mechanical-biological treatment of waste.

You can find the results of this study also on picture 7.7 which shows impressively the negative influence of traditional landfilling (Alternative 1) on GHG-emission , also in the case of collecting methane and using it for producing electricity. The most efficient ways are the thermal treatment (Alternative 3) and the different mechanical-biological treatment varieties (Alternatives 6aG- 6bÖH).

In case there should be a need to contact some scientists in Germany who made research in this field I can tell you name and addresses of these scientists.

Yours sincerely

By order

Dr. C. Bergs

Anlagen

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