

# eco



JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT PREPCOMM 4 \* BALI, INDONESIA \* NGO NEWSLETTER

## SETTING THE RIGHT TARGET

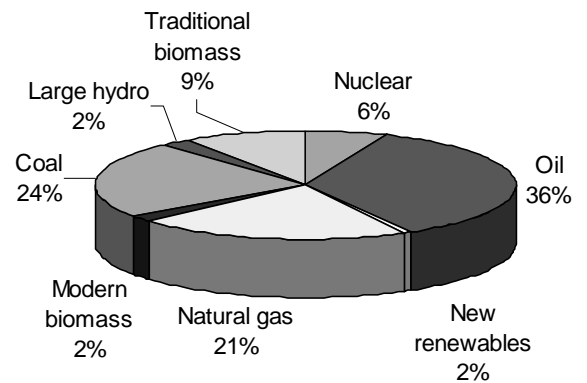
A number of proposals for a global renewables target have been either put on the table or have been floating around in the background in the past few days. The Swiss have proposed 5% 'non large hydro' renewables. The EU has tabled a target of 15% of unspecified renewables. Latin American environment ministers adopted a regional target of 10%, also unspecified. NGOs have been proposing 10% 'new' renewables. What does this mean?

The definition of 'renewables' is crucial to setting a meaningful target as can be seen

from the pie chart on the right which shows the current breakdown of global energy use.

The broadest definition of renewables includes traditional biomass, large hydro and new renewables – which today accounts for about 13% of total energy.

Breaking this down, new renewable energy (2%) is defined as modern biomass, geothermal, wind, solar energy, small hydropower, and marine en-



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## W(H)ITHER WATER RESOURCES AT WSSD? DOWN THE DRAIN?

Negotiators working on water at Prepcomm IV are fortunate that they can point to a pre-existing target contained in the Millennium Declaration Goals – to reduce by 50% the proportion of those without access to safe drinking water by 2015. This is a fine and worthy goal that will undoubtedly help to eradicate poverty, and one with which even battle weary officials cannot argue. However, while some governments have recognised the practical implications of this target, few are prepared to take action towards implementation. If water is provided, it's used. So where does it go? The obvious solution is to provide adequate sanitation. The alternative is polluted watercourses and groundwater leading to adverse effects on the environment and an increase in water borne diseases, which then spiral back to further impoverishment and so on. The EU in particular has championed a parallel target for improvement in access to sanitation by 2015, but this has met with resistance (surprise, surprise) by the US, which is apparently opposed to all targets (except maintaining their own overblown lifestyles). The US is backed up by

the Australians (with their parrot-like mimicking – have they said anything original?) and the Canadians. The G77 appear to be in favour but then push for changes which revert the text to the old paradigm of how much water can we give back to the environment rather than how much can we afford to take out - the environment being a so-called alternative user. It is crucial that water be managed from an environmental perspective, through Integrated River Basin Management, for instance, but where is that in the text? It appears only in a national or regional context and is very weak. Most rivers cross national boundaries and are shared/trans-regional/international resources – the exact word doesn't matter but the principle does., Governments will not take on this crucial issue; but where better than at a meeting at Head of State level? As to funding all this, well, ODA will not do it even at enhanced levels so its back to reallocating those subsidies again. The US just agreed subsidies to its water guzzling agricultural sector some sixteen times higher than the funds promised at Monterrey so there's a start!

## GENETICALLY MODIFIED TYPE 2

During the side event on Type 2 outcomes sponsored by the United States on Wednesday, the US were asked if their "partnership" proposals on agriculture might include promotion of genetically modified organisms. The answer from the United States delegation was: "Yes".

Hardly surprising; partnership between the US government and the genetic engineering giant Monsanto is nothing new. Neither the US nor companies such as Monsanto waited for approval from the United Nations to develop their partnerships in the past. The agent orange defoliant manufactured by Monsanto and sprayed by US bombers during the Vietnam war, for example, was one of the most infamous partnership initiatives between the Pentagon and Monsanto.

Something else Monsanto became famous for a few years ago were their "terminator" seeds, which promised to secure increased rents for the company at the expense of small farmers around the world. The plan was so dubious that Monsanto

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was forced to shelve it after a few years of aggressive promotion.

The US proposal is a new step in their campaign to impose GE crops internationally. Proposals that may look attractive on paper can undermine food security and food sovereignty, and mask a host of environmental problems, including genetic pollution liable to irreversibly affect biodiversity.

Recently, for example, maize in Mexico was found to be contaminated by GE maize imported into the country. Mexico is the home – or centre of origin – of maize, where many diverse varieties of maize are grown. Plant breeders rely on the genetic diversity of these varieties. Studies conducted by the Mexican authorities have recently confirmed the extent of this case of genetic contamination, which is liable to undermine agricultural diversity and traditional livelihoods, and thereby increase rather than alleviate poverty.

We do not doubt that many people within the US administration are genuinely concerned with food security issues. May we suggest that instead of helping companies like Monsanto, they take steps to ratify international instruments that are important for food security, such as the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The US could also join the developing countries in their battle against the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) that are so adversely affecting food security. They could support a ban on the patenting of living material for food and agriculture. And also agree to provide additional funds to the GEF, and to support the proposed new GEF cluster for the Convention on Desertification?

WSSD should agree that before any country proposes a Type 2 initiative, that country should always – as the first step – ratify and implement the multilateral agreements relevant to the issue they pledge to address, before consideration may be given to their Type 2 proposals.



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ergy. Modern biomass is the use of biomass to produce electricity, steam and biofuels.

Traditional biomass (9%) consists mainly of firewood and agriculture residues, and dung for cooking and heating, and is a vital energy source for literally billions of people worldwide, especially for residential energy use in Africa and India.

Large hydro (2%) is variously defined according to power output or dam height, for example the International Rivers Network which uses a threshold of 20MW. Large dams should not be included in a renewables definition because of their enormous – and well documented – social and environmental impact. It could even be argued that they are not truly renewable as they often destroy the river ecosystem upon which they depend for power. Finally, they share none of the small-scale, decentralized, innovative technology attributes of new renewables' and so to package them together is nonsense from the perspective of policy, finance, capacity building or research and development.

Governments need to be more specific about what they are talking about if their targets are to have any meaning. NGOs recommend a target of 10% of global energy supply for new renewables by 2010, which models have indicated is achievable if backed with a comprehensive support programme. This means a worldwide action plan which would have to address domestic policy (including removing perverse subsidies), finance (both private and public sources), education and capacity-building and research and development. The aim from the access to energy perspective would be to drive down the costs of new renewables in order to increase their availability to the energy poor.

Nobody is saying that new renewable energy is the only answer to energy poverty – it clearly is not. Traditional biomass management in particular is clearly a sector that deserves substantial extra attention. In many cases, however, 'new' renewables are not even an option because of a massive bias in the energy marketplace or in the priorities of financiers and donors. The WSSD is one of the few fora where an effective global new renewables initiative could be created with the political backing to see it through. Don't miss this chance.

## Update on Energy

Our report in yesterday's ECO-EQUITY on the status of the contact group on energy was correct when we went to press...BUT, in the wee hours of the morning, the EU text calling for a 15% target was reinserted as an amendment to the Swiss language on a 5% target. Congratulations to all concerned for creative strategies for moving forward. In a text which offers very little vision for a sustainable future, the 15% target stands out one of the few positive proposals on the table.

The contact group was unable to agree a final text today, and it will now be discussed in plenary...but what the plenary will do with an absolute mish-mash of competing proposals and objections remains to be seen.

## sUSTAINED CONSUMPTION OR SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION??

Delegates negotiate in well air-conditioned rooms, consume over-priced snacks in plastic packaging and aluminium cans (has this island got adequate recycling and waste disposal systems?) and go back tired to sleep in their luxury hotels, where they may be asked to ring reception if they want to save the planet by using their towels more than once. Some of them have been working hard all week on juggling short phrases in the important ‘Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production’ section. Yes, we (surely including most delegates?) all know it – some of us

Day	Energy Plan Day	Scientific Studies Day	Energy Co. Lobbyists Day	Kyoto Treaty Day
Monday	22 Earth Day	23 Drill in ANWR Day	24 Snowmobiles in Yellowstone Day	25 Meet Mon Energy Co Lobbyists Day
Tuesday	29 Dump EPA Ombudsman Day	30 Drop Lawsuits Against Polluters Day	1 O.K. Strip Mine Waste Dumps Day	2 Ignore Climate Change Day
Wednesday	6 Corporate Greed Day	7 Meet Even More Energy Co. Lobbyists Day	8 Fox Guarding the Henhouse Day	9 Local Yahoos Drain Wetlands Day

*The Bush Environmental and Sustainable Development Calendar*

cannot continue to consume the way we do with the speed that we do it if we all want to have a tolerable life – even less if we seriously want to combat poverty and hunger. Take food as an example and express it in simple maths:

Over-consumption + under-consumption = Stress, obesity and hunger.

The current “negotiations” should not be that difficult, since we have the policy framework we need, with good words and suggested solutions since Rio. It is a matter of just doing it instead of talking.

There have been some good intentions reflected in the chairman’s paper (work programme, concrete action plan, monitoring, financial commitment to developing countries, etc.) – the only problem is that any proposed targets have a very short life-span in this process (30 seconds has so far been the record in an exchange between EU and US – we leave it to you to guess who said what). The most concrete result at the end of the first week has been a consistent watering down, so now we are all keeping our fingers crossed that ministers next week will have the “vision” to remove the brackets from the phrase “[Develop a ten-year work programme]”. Perhaps Japan could take the lead on this. After all, they only need to follow their own example - they have already passed laws on things like green procurement, recycling and waste management, and given people financial incentives to buy ‘greener’ cars.

## Don’t Let Big Business Rule the World!

The North Americans only seem to be able to waffle on about partnerships and Doha; upon returning home, some European delegations should have their hearing checked; and the Japanese seem to be offering the entire planet up for sale.

The way the Earth Summit is shaping up, big business is laughing all the way to the bank. President Bush must be thrilled!

But governments won’t be laughing when global civil society condemns them for failing to reign in corporate-led globalisation and deliver a plan of action for Johannesburg. Time is running out fellas...

Join Friends of the Earth International this Saturday June 1st for a GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION.

Actions include a massive postcard to be delivered in Madrid, Spain and a menacing corporate giant haunting Berlin, Germany.

Here in Bali, you are all invited to send your own personal message to world leaders. Come to the Candra Loka Amphitheatre in Nusa Dua at 10:45 a.m. this Saturday, June 1.

Tell governments to save the summit and don’t let big business rule the world!



## **Bali Hai**

Bali Hai, as usual, is all knowing and all seeing! An Australian delegate – perhaps one of those noticed in a compromising position with the US earlier this week – was caught scooping up ECO/Equity publications that made reference to his illicit activity. But Bali Hai caught this Australian delegate hiding all the ECOs he could greedily get his hands on and must say to this delegate – beware!!! Bali Hai cannot be silenced!!! Bali Hai is everywhere.....

Bali Hai hopes that the ‘official’ graphics that the UN is using for Johannesburg are not prophetic. We’re all familiar by now with the row of hexagons on the cover of the UN press packs, posters, etc. symbolising the major areas where the Summit hopes to make progress. Bali Hai was dismayed to discover, however, that if you look carefully you see the bank notes pictured in the symbol for finance consist primarily of currencies which no longer exist (deutschmarks, guilders, etc.)! There’s a US 50 dollar note, but the US has already promised that it won’t be putting any cash on the table...and the only other identifiable currency is the Yuan. It was news to Bali Hai that China was expected to put big bucks on the table...

## **International NGO Press Conference**

**TODAY  
11:30 AM  
AT MEDIA CENTER  
BICC**

**Speakers from  
Greenpeace  
Friends of the Earth International  
World Wide Fund for Nature  
Consumers International  
Week One Wrap-Up!!!**

## **Earth Cup 2002**

The much-anticipated Earth Cup 2002 finals begin today.

The media is getting itchy feet waiting for the stars to enter the field.

The first week of group games saw many countries scoring for the “Damn the Planet” team. Sporting expensive Nike shoes and sweatshop shirts, these corporate-sponsored footballers were playing foul on people and the planet.

Meanwhile, the “Team Earth Summit”, sponsored by The People, was facing injury problems and finding it hard to field a full team. Too many key players were either injured or preferred an easy, lazy life on the bench while “Team Earth Summit” was trashed.

The corporate hooligans were cheering madly as the people’s champions faced crushing defeats in the Energy, Corporate Accountability, Water, Consumption and Production, and Trade groups. But it ain’t too late yet!

The knockout stage of the tournament is just beginning. NGOs will not let the “Damn the Planet” team prevail. From today onwards, they will cheer on the “Team Earth Summit” by presenting a key star player every day.

NGOs will also expose those wasting their life away on the bench and expose the dirty tricks the “Damn the Planet” team depends on.

Stay tuned....

Eco-Equity is a publication of Consumers International, the Danish 92 Group, Friends of the Earth International, Fundacion Natura, Greenpeace International, Indonesian People’s Forum, Northern Alliance for Sustainability, Oxfam International, Pelangi, and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

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Special thanks to Anna Fielder, Colleen Freeman, Taka Gani, Antonio Hill, Remi Parmentier, Liam Salter, Steve Sawyer, Melanie Steiner, Chris Tydeman, and others.

<http://www.climatenetwork.org/eco/>, [www.rio10.dk](http://www.rio10.dk)