
Foreword from the Editors

The World Sustainable Energy Days are one of Europe's largest annual conferences on energy efficiency and renewable energy and offer a unique combination of events on sustainable energy. The conference, which is organised by the Energy Agency of Upper Austria (OÖ Energiesparverband), is held in Wels in February or March of each year. It attracts more than 700 experts from over 50 countries every year.

A part of the conference is dedicated to young energy researchers. Outstanding young scientists from around the globe present their work in the fields of biomass and energy efficiency. Twenty of the "World Sustainable Energy Days Next 2014" young researchers' presentations are published in this book. The conference was held from 26–27 February 2014.

The papers were selected by a high-level scientific committee for oral presentation. From two main fields—biomass and energy efficiency in buildings—these contributions offer an insight into the research work and the scientific findings and developments of young researchers from all over the world. They also communicate results, trends and opinions that will concern and influence the world's energy experts and policy makers over the next decades.

The conference is organised by the OÖ Energiesparverband, the Energy Agency of Upper Austria. This agency was set up by the regional government to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and innovative energy technologies. Its main target groups are households, public bodies (e.g. municipalities) and businesses. The energy agency is active on the local, regional, national, EU and international levels through numerous projects and programmes. The OÖ Energiesparverband supports the regional government in the development and implementation of regional energy programmes. One of its primary fields of action is comprehensive information and awareness raising activities on sustainable energy production and use. This also includes the organisation of conferences and events, e.g. the World Sustainable Energy Days.

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Gerhard Dell and Christiane Egger

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