



14TH YPAC MERANO

FINAL RESOLUTION

Bio-fields for greater yields

This postulation tackles the problems affecting agriculture due to climate change.

Changing climate conditions are causing a number of problems to agriculture due to species not being able to adapt. Several problems also occur during the cultivation like the use of harmful pesticides which attack the environment. In addition, other harmful processes like the use of non-eco-friendly machinery add to the CO₂ emissions.

To solve these problems, we propose subsidies from local governments to local farmers and farming industries based on how eco-friendly their production is. For example, if they use electrical machinery and biodegradable compost, they could be granted higher subsidies, according to specific requirements set by national standards. Furthermore, we encourage funding the research and production of bio-pesticides. We suggest the use of cross breeds so as to improve the resistance, strength and fertility of crops. This way we would help plants that are facing challenges during droughts, infertility and extreme weather conditions.

Hop on top

In this postulation we propose an eco-friendly and more efficient way of feeding livestock.

Feeding livestock with food like soy causes many problems. Some issues are, for example, the huge amount of CO₂ that is produced due to the transport of nutrients and deforestation in order to obtain the land needed to cultivate these. In the future, these problems will increase even more, due to higher demands.

Therefore, we propose that farmers breed protein-rich insects, like maggots, and use them to replace imported and damaging food sources that would usually provide those nutrients. Insects can be bred by local farms, which would help solve the problem of CO₂-emissions. Additionally, this production needs less space and resources, like water and food, which in the case of insects could consist of food-waste products from supermarkets, etc. Furthermore, these insects contain more proteins than meat or crops, which will create an economic benefit in the long-term. These insects can be easily bred in a few days; consequently, there would also be no need to store the food, because it would be fresh and available.

Coping with heat in urban areas

This resolution is about cooling down urban areas and thereby saving people from overheating. Due to rising temperatures the number of tropical nights is increasing in urban areas. In these nights, the temperature never drops under 20 degrees Celsius. Thus, human bodies suffer from not being able to cool down. Noticing this, we propose the following ideas:

In order to help cities cool down, the amount of buildings with a high thermal storage mass must be minimized. This can be achieved through new methods of construction like wooden and/or bright painted heat-reflective roofs or facades and streets. These methods of construction should be subsidised for new infrastructure or renovation projects. Where the structure cannot be changed, urban gardening should be promoted.

Air Pollution from trucks

This postulation is about reducing air pollution made by transporting cargo in trucks.

We see that there is increased air pollution due to vehicles which produce harmful emissions. One third of all deaths are caused by stroke, lung cancer and heart disease which are partly due to air pollution.

We propose transporting cargo for longer distances between the cities by trains. For shorter distances, e.g. from the train station and to the client, trucks can be used. To accomplish this goal, we propose a label for products transported by trains, to make it easier for consumers to buy goods transported in an eco-friendly way. In that way, emissions by trucks going long distances can be prevented and traffic jams can be reduced. Finally, we suggest lowering the speed limits for trucks on highways and in general making heavy goods vehicles more expensive. As a result, we can lower the toxins that are released into the air and make the railway system more attractive.

Climate refugees

This proposal deals with providing basic human rights to climate refugees arriving to the Alpine Region.

The consequences of climate change are endangering the life of billions of people and every year more and more of them are forced to leave their homeland. The Alpine region must deal with this issue. In order to understand the phenomenon better, we would like to introduce an official definition of a climate refugee: "A person who is forced to leave their region/country due to consequences caused by climate change".

The government should establish a database that includes all the places where immediate danger caused by climate change could pose a threat. A pool of experts will be in charge of constantly updating it.

To guarantee basic human rights to these refugees, we propose the creation of safe houses in which they are provided with accommodation; here they will have time to look for a job and to gain economic stability. Safe houses should be municipal buildings renovated in an eco-friendly

way. They should also be run by volunteers so that there will be fewer problems in finding new employees. In these houses the refugees will learn the language of the host country and get help to integrate into society.

Healthcare should be free for climate refugees, since most of them do not have money to afford basic treatments.

Dealing with privatized water sources

This postulation deals with the human right to water.

As the consequences of global warming are becoming more intense, the periods of droughts and water shortages will challenge the governments to fulfill the right to clean water.

We believe that water should be a public good. This proposal deals with the excessive use of water by companies that use water from their private sources for profit. One example of this is when people buy groundwater pumps in the Alpine area and start selling water without regulation. To prevent this from happening in the Alpine region, we suggest a law created by scientists working with the government that sets limits to the use of water sources.

This group of scientists would define extreme circumstances under which the companies owning private water sources are obligated to distribute water for free to the public. The company would be reimbursed by the government.

Easily achievable climate protection supported by political institutions

This postulation is about achieving climate protection through easy and effective small steps, achievable by everybody and being made more manageable with the support of political institutions.

When it comes to climate change, we don't have any time to lose, so every small step counts. This postulation encourages everybody to start acting against climate change in their region with easily achievable solutions.

First of all, it is quite easy to improve the sustainability of a school by school-internal policies like enhancing the waste recycling-system and promoting the selling of eco-friendly products.

Participating in local politics is another possibility to implement our postulation.

The improvement of eco-friendly means of transport, such as bicycles and public transport would minimize CO₂-emissions.

Exchanging simple trashcans with recycling bins is another small adaption for cities to help prevent climate change.

Next to these long-term changes, we also suggest small projects and events, e.g. workshops like planting trees together. With all these examples given, but also propaganda and information signs, we want to raise awareness about climate change. Every single person can contribute to climate protection and increase the number of people acting against it.

Politicians, public administrations and every authority involved have to provide legal and political frameworks for these actions.

Financial encouragement for climate protection

In this postulation, we address the missing awareness towards climate change by creating an incentive for a better attitude towards climate change.

The main issue in regard to climate change is the lack of interest in it by mainly middle-aged adults. This age group is the hardest to reach as they have lived a long period of their lives without being aware of the issue.

We propose a taxation system that offers tax reductions for companies and other institutions that take measures against climate change. Some of these measures could include recycling, public transportation, or other positive actions. To be eligible for the tax reductions, a company must respect certain criteria, such as consistency, CO₂ emissions limit defined by independent organizations. We believe that one of the most effective ways to influence companies is to create financial incentive.

Lowering the voting age

One issue we are currently facing is a change in the demographic structure. The overall age of the population increases which means that the ratio of younger people decreases. In developed countries the biggest age group are baby boomers.

We believe that voting should be accessible to people who are highly affected by its impact. When it comes to climate change, today's youth will be affected the most. Therefore, we propose that the voting age should be lowered to 16.

Thanks to an improved education, the youth will be aware of how the voting system works and about the political situation in their countries. Moreover, lowering the voting age will increase the interest in politics among the youth, which will result in more youth participation.

Furthermore, lowering the voting age will strengthen the representation of young people's opinion on climate policies. This will result in youth-friendlier politics since the parties would need to adapt ideas which appeal to young people for them to get elected. This would lead to climate-friendlier policies. If parties represent the ideals of adolescents, the youth will be more likely to participate in pushing them through.