# Lessons from Germany's efforts for renewable energy communications

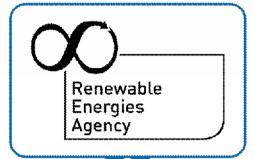
IRENA Workshop on Social Acceptance of Renewable Energy

Abu Dhabi, October 7th, 2013

Jörg Mühlenhoff, German Renewable Energies Agency



# The Renewable Energies Agency



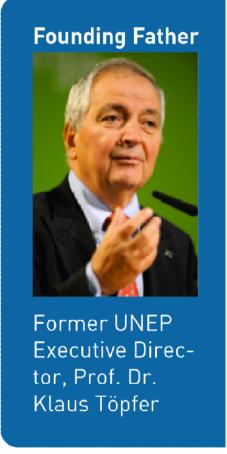
#### **Federal Ministries**





### Industry







### Why we were founded

### Key tasks:

- Central information platform for a decentralised RE sector
- Provide unbiased facts and coherent data
- Explain RE technologies, potentials, costs & benefits

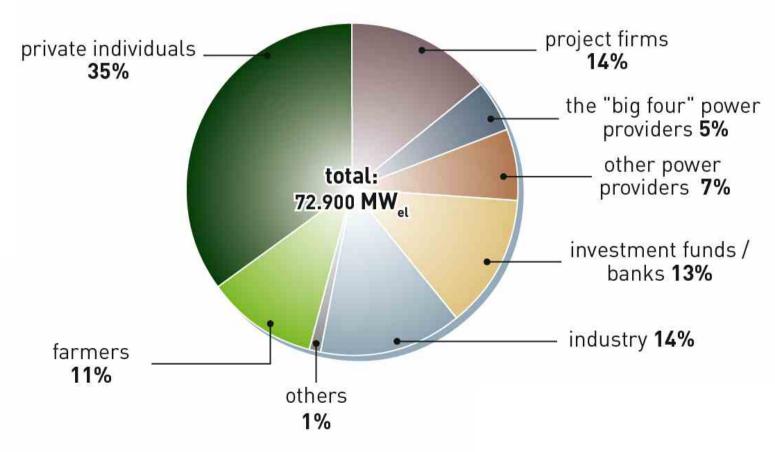
### Key messages:

- Security of supply
- Employment & local economic development
- Citizens' energy
- Climate protection

# Framework for debunking myths

### Renewable energy in the hands of the people

Ownership distribution of installed RE capacity for power production 2012 throughout Germany.



Source: trend research; as of: 04/2013



# Framework for debunking myths

### Germany 2013:

- 138 regions declared 100% RES target
- 22 mio. people living in regions aiming at 100% RES



# High experience = high acceptance

For energy production in the neighbourhood is assessed as good or very good...





# Campaigns to debunk myths

### Local communities campaign:

- Spread best practice (brochures, website...)
- Awarding a "community of the month"
- Provide advice to mayors and local initiatives
- Enable municipalities and regions to estimate economic benefits of local RE projects
- Facilitate citizens' democratic and financial involvement in local projects

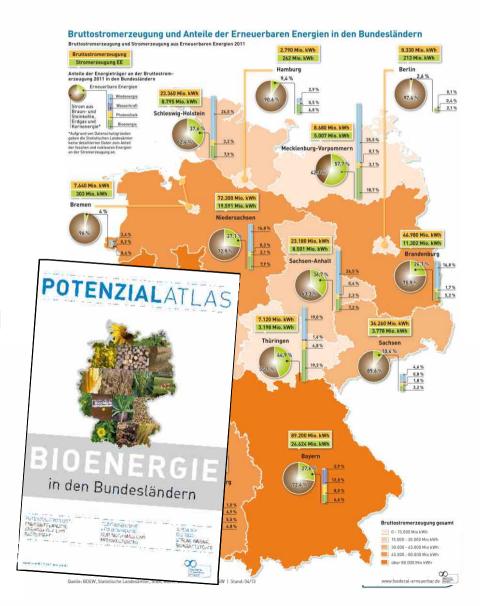
www.kommunal-erneuerbar.de



# Campaigns to debunk myths

### Länder (federal states) campaign:

- Benchmarking the policies and efforts of the 16 federal states (research project, statistical database)
- Visualise regional RE potentials
- Facilitate exchange of Länder administrations on legislation and RE strategy
- Bi-annual award for the most successful Land
  - www.foederal-erneuerbar.de



# Press contact point







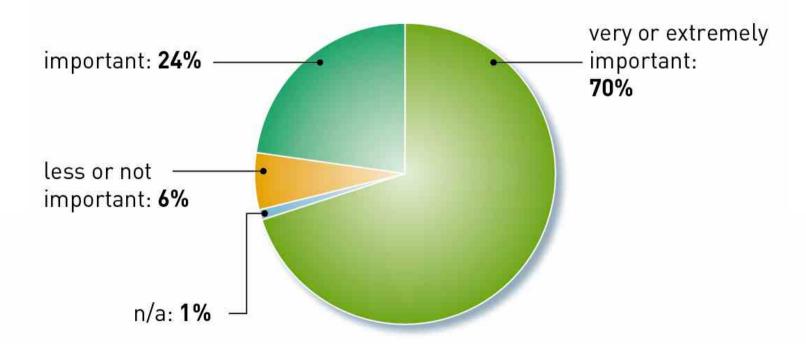




# Summary

# 94% of the German citizens want an intensified "Energiewende"

"Promotion and use of renewable energy sources are..."





### Thank you for your attention!

### www.renewables-in-germany.com

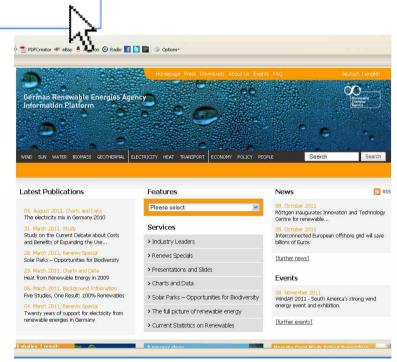
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# Backup

German "Top 5" of common concerns

1. "RE weaken the German economy."

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### German "Top 5" of common concerns

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- 4. "Bioenergy makes people in developing countries starving."

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- 2. "RE costs pump up households' energy bill."
- 3. "RE alone are not reliable and leave us in the dark."
- 4. "Bioenergy makes people in developing countries starving."
- 5. "Wind turbines are a blot on the landscape."