

The Politics of Coal in the Context of Climate Policy and Social Justice

Pre-COP24 Conference

Agenda as of 26th of November 2018

Date: November 29 – 30, 2018

Venue: Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change (MCC), Berlin

Background:

Even though the costs of renewable energy sources have declined considerably, the construction of new coal power plants is envisaged in most parts of the world. This trend is most salient in developing countries that aim to meet their rapidly increasing energy demand. If all coal power plants that are currently under construction or in the planning stage were actually built, the target of keeping global temperature increase well below 2°C, as stated in the Paris agreement, would very likely be out of reach. While the 'Powering Past Coal Alliance' formed at COP23 in Bonn has put the topic high on the international agenda, countries that continue investing into coal are not part of it. To discuss what could be politically feasible entry points to transition away from coal, this conference aims to assemble researchers, policy makers and stakeholders from industry and civil society. Based on expert assessment and experiences from countries that successfully managed such transitions, the conference aims at identifying opportunities and challenges of clean energy transitions and outline best practices, in particular regarding the design of socially just energy and climate policies. These insights are intended to serve as background information for negotiators at COP24. In addition, the conference aims to strengthen the ties within the community dealing with coal transitions and promote long term cooperation.

Day 1 [Moderation: Malte Kreutzfeldt]

9.00 – 9.10 Welcome

9.10 – 12.45 Session 1: Competing Narratives for future energy systems

9.10 – 9.40 Keynote: Coal and Climate Change Mitigation (Ottmar Edenhofer) [30']

9.40 – 10.40 Policy Comments: [60']

- The Powering Past Coal Alliance: Beth Child, UK Government (Department of Business, Environment and Industrial Strategy)
- International perspective from development cooperation: Christoph Beier, GIZ
- Financial sector Nick Robins; LSE

Break 30'

11.10 – 11.45 Ministerial Policy Keynote: Just Transition – Unser Weg zu einer sozial-gerechten Umsetzung des Parisabkommens (Svenja Schulze) [35']

11.45 – 12.45 Moderated Discussion: How to reconcile optimism regarding renewables with continued build-up of coal-fired capacities? Edenhofer, Beth Child, Christoph Beier, Nick Robins; 60' + Q&A]

Lunch 60'

13.45 – 17.20 Session 2: Learning from country-specific experiences

13.45 – 14.05 Overview Where coal is important and why (Ted Nace) [20']

14.05 – 14.25 Input focus: India (Rohit Chandra) [20']

14.25 -14.45 Input focus: Australia (Frank Jotzo) [20']

14.45 – 15.05 Input focus: Germany (Andreas Löschel) [20']

15.05 – 16.00 Summary of results and panel discussion [60']

Break 15'

16.15 – 17.15 Video Keynote Confronting the Climate Challenge: Policy options for the US (Lawrence H. Goulder) [45' + 15' Q&A]

17.15 – 17.30 Closing remarks Day 1 [15']

Reception

Day 2 [Moderation: Conny Czymoch]

9.00 – 9.05 Welcome Day 2 [5']

9.05 – 12.30 Session 1: Turning losers into winners – Understanding the political economy to enable transformative change

9.05 – 10.05 Keynote Sustainable Energy Transitions in Emerging Economies: A Research Agenda for the Social Sciences (Johannes Urpelainen) [45'+15' Q&A]

Break 15''

10.20 – 11.20 Keynote Which insights from social science can help to accelerate low-carbon transitions? (Ben Sovacool) [45'+15' Q&A]

Break 10'

11.30 – 12.30 Panel discussion: Turning losers into winners? Challenges and opportunities for a coal transition (Including Ben Sovacool, Johannes Urpelainen, Samantha Smith ITUC, Joachim Hein, BDI, Stefanie Langkamp Klima-Allianz) [60']

Lunch 60'

13.30 Session 2: Determinants of success: Lessons from other policy areas

13.30 – 14.30 Keynote Compensating losers from Globalization – But how? (Jens Suedekum) [45'+15' Q&A]

Break 30'

Short presentations: Lessons from other areas

15.00 – 15.30 Tobacco control (Chris Holden) [20' + 10' Q&A]

15.30 – 16.00 Sugar taxes (Laura Cornelsen) [20' + 10' Q&A]

16.00 – 17.00 Discussion: What can we learn for coal transitions? [60']

17.00 – 17.20 Wrap-up and closing remarks: Key insights of the conference: What can we learn for coal? (Jan Steckel and Michael Jakob) [20']