

- to improve education of professionals in construction related to energy saving;
- to increase energy efficiency in former East Germany;
- to promote renewable energies.

CO₂ has the dominant attention, but CH₄, NO_x, N₂O and other greenhouse gases will be considered as well.

In addition to the above-mentioned concrete measures in preparation, Germany is considering the whole range of legal, economic and persuasive instruments. The main topics in further political discussion are, for example:

- measures to reduce energy consumption of motor vehicles;
- improvement and implementation of power plant technology towards better efficiency.

2. Factors Influencing Decisions

German energy consumption relies heavily on the use of fossil fuels, especially on coal and lignite which are the indigenous energy sources in Germany (former FRG 30 per cent; former GDR 70 per cent). Although economic and environmental needs call for a smaller contribution of these fuels, social and regional considerations as well as security of supply aspects limit speed and amount of the reduction potential. Improvement of energy efficiency in the former GDR has priority. At the same time countervailing effects, e.g. increasing transport needs, cannot be neglected.

Public awareness of environmental issues is, in general, very high in Germany. This is true for the greenhouse gas discussion, too. It is difficult to foresee to what extent this corresponds with the willingness to take or accept measures to protect climate.

The speed of international agreements for climate protection might have influence on speed and amount of national measures.

3. Relevant Studies

In 1987, the German Bundestag established a study commission on "Preventive Measures to Protect the Earth's Atmosphere" in order to deal with issues related to the growing threats to the earth's atmosphere. The Commission submitted 3 reports to the German Bundestag. The first offers not only a detailed account of current scientific