

Community Meeting - Archipel & Willempark

Introduction: Graham Degens - 21 January 2010

- My name is Graham Degens
- I have worked more than 30 years in the oil industry, helping to optimise the recovery of oil and gas from the ground, mostly in the Netherlands
- My current job is to help oil projects reduce their CO₂
- I am not an environmental activist, but I do understand that our personal and industrial activities are having a growing negative impact on the environment
- PS: everything I say today is my own opinion, and is not connected with my current employer

Our agenda for the next 30 minutes:

- What is CO₂, and why is it important?
- What did the politicians achieve in Copenhagen?
- What can we do? – Several suggestions
- Discussion
- But first, what are your impressions from Copenhagen?

What is CO₂ and why is it important?

- CO₂ is a gas
- CO₂ is energy
- CO₂ is about “making choices”
 - For example:
 - A McDonalds Happy Meal – the energy used to make this meal could feed someone in India for several weeks. And why do we buy it? – For a plastic toy
 - My family journey to Friesland tomorrow – going by car generates 100kg CO₂, in order to save 2 hours versus going by public transport. This is equivalent to an extra 3 ½ days worth of a person’s annual CO₂ production (11 tonnes per year on average)
 - We are using within 100 years numerous natural resources which existed for millions of years. And why?
 - Consumer society
 - Impulse purchases
 - “Growth”, as opposed to development (getting better)

The Problem - Conclusions

- Today, I will not go into details, but the main points are:
 - Scientists round the world agree that a higher CO₂ content in our atmosphere means a higher temperature
 - The speed at which people are putting extra CO₂ into the air is much faster than the speed at which natural mechanisms can absorb it
 - The CO₂ content of the atmosphere is already much higher than in the last million years, and will rise much higher still
 - The best estimates for a temperature rise this century lie between 4-6 degrees C, if we continue with pumping CO₂ out

Copenhagen Highlights

- Climate change is one of the biggest challenges of our time
- Strong political will to tackle this
- Greenhouse gases must stay below a dangerous level
- Global temperatures should not rise more than 2 degrees
- Big reductions are necessary in CO₂ emissions – the current rise in emissions has to be turned round as soon as possible
- Developed countries have to help developing countries with sufficient (and stable) financial and technological support
 - \$30 billion available for the period 2010-2012
- Developed countries promise to submit their reduction targets before end January 2010

- Developing countries promise to submit their greenhouse gas strategies before end January 2010

Copenhagen Highlights – What was **not** agreed

- The future of the Kyoto protocol
- The allocation of the remaining “CO₂-space”
- Clear emission reduction targets, timetables and methods – globally and per country
- Recognition of technologies to reduce CO₂ emissions in industrial countries
- Clear financial agreements, sufficient to achieve reduction targets (also for developing countries)
- Clear route for companies, governments and individuals to follow
- Promises made at Copenhagen will most likely result in a global temperature rise of more than 3.2 degrees C
- The leaders hope for a binding agreement by end 2010

What should we do with this?

- Globally, our CO₂ reduction has to be reduced to 1/5 by 2050
- This is equivalent to an annual reduction from now of 4-5% per year, every year
- The longer we delay, the faster we have to decline (or live with the consequences)
- Governments will come with regulations – but when?
- Energy prices will rise
- Do we want to walk ahead, or wait for (and complain about) politicians
- We can all start now with fairly simple choices (which also save money)
 - Fly less
 - Use the car less
 - Save energy at home and at work
 - Modify your purchasing (consumption) habits
 - Recycling
- Let’s make this fun by doing this together ...

My suggestion:

- If you choose, as a community, to reduce your environmental “footprint”, I am willing to help you
- A selection of potential projects:
 - Information meetings for adults and schoolchildren
 - Comparison of household energy use
 - Volunteer projects, e.g. simple home insulation (e.g. for the elderly or low-income families)
 - Planting trees or other green projects
 - Car-pooling club
 - Promoting green energy options and subsidy information
 - Stimulating use of local companies and products
 - And a lot more ...
- For me, this is not just about the environment, it is also about strengthening our feeling of community – we can do things together, and have fun while we are at

Next Steps

- Your Residents Association names a contact person
- If you (individually) are interested in my proposal, either this evening or in the coming days, then give your name to the Secretary
- Depending on the reactions received, the Association will then decide if they wish to proceed
- The contact person will let me know how much interest there is, and we can then talk about a follow-up event to take this project forward
- The choice is yours...
- Thank you! And now, let’s discuss ...

Questions and Discussion