



MILESECURE-2050 PROJECT FINAL SEMINAR

Brussels, December 15, 2015

University Foundation, rue d'Egmont 11 – 1000 Brussels

Welcome address

Pierre LACONTE – President, Foundation for the Urban Environment;
Member of the Milesecure-2050 Advisory Board;
Organiser of the University Foundation Programme “World of Cities”

The University Foundation

The University Foundation, created in 1920, is a meeting place for academics from Belgium, their colleagues from abroad and civil society representatives.

It has 1200 members and hosts a large roster of scientific activities.

It has been my pleasure to help the Milesecure Project being hosted here for its final seminar.

The GHG emissions measurement issue

This final seminar coincides with the Paris Climate Conference Final Agreement. It may be of interest to briefly remind the Warsaw keynote address I delivered about the emissions measurement as compared to the measurement of energy consumption and production.

GHG accounting methodology

GHG-greenhouse gas emissions accounting methods has been done, in a too little known comparative study by Baader N. and Bleidschwitz R., at the College of Europe in 2009. As opposed to the measurement of GNP for which there is a generally agreed method there is no agreement about the GNG.

Who is measuring?

The measurement tools are vastly different according to the institutions in charge of measuring.

CO2 Grobbilanz/EMSIG (Climate Alliance Austria, Energy Agency of the Regions)

ECO2Region (Climate Alliance, Ecospeed)

GRIP (Tyndall Centre, UK Environment Agency)

Bilan Carbone (ADEME)

CO2 Calculator (Danish National Environmental Research Institute, Local Government Denmark, COWI)

Project 2 Degrees (ICLEI, Clinton Climate Initiative, Microsoft)

What emissions are measured and how?

- The measurement covers either the total of the six Kyoto different GHG are measured in total or only some of them, mainly carbon dioxide and methane.
- Different global warming potentials are obtained according to the use of second, third or fourth IPCC report.
- The reporting standards are different.
- The scope of measurement includes either only direct emissions or also indirect emissions and life cycle emissions.
- The definitions by sector are highly variable e.g. on transport.

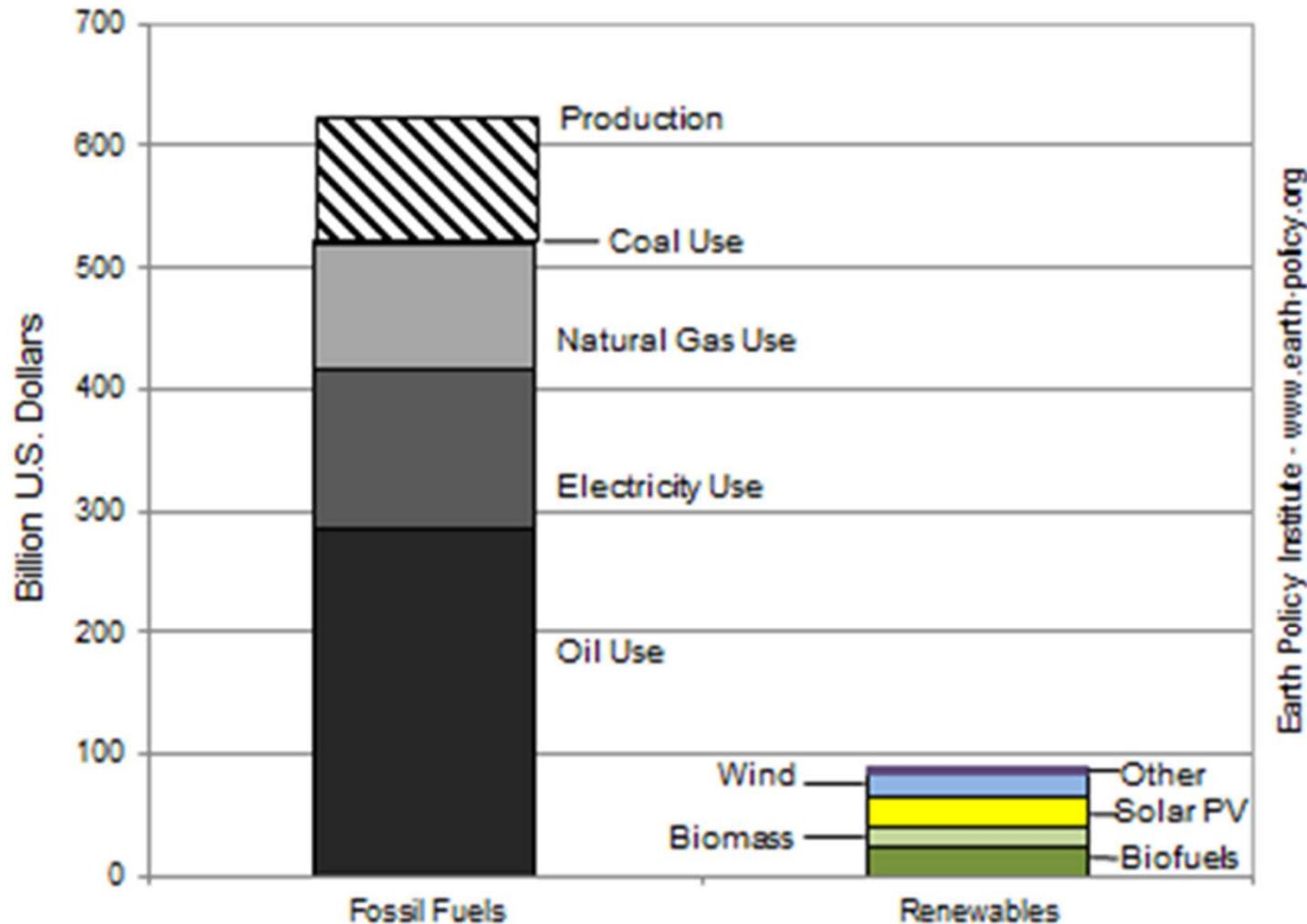
Trading of emissions

The European emissions trading system has been widely criticised because of the unreliability of its measurement, the numerous exemptions granted under pressure of interest groups and the excessive amount of free allowances.

In addition, the difficulty to control the validity/authenticity of the certificates and the 28 accounting systems have generated numerous frauds and a discredit of the system in the case of Europe, while it is functioning for a long time in the US for sulfur emissions “cap and trade”.

At world level - Measuring energy consumption and production is a realistic substitute to direct measurement of GHG's, as they are by far the main component of emissions.

Fossil Fuel and Renewable Energy Subsidies, 2011



<http://www.iea.org/>

Source: GSI, IEA

Earth Policy Institute - www.earth-policy.org

At the EU level - The European level Environment Agency has undertaken - with the help of Ecologic, Berlin, a Milesecure-partner - a detailed analysis of energy subsidies for the year 2001. These subsidies include:

- on-budget subsidies paid directly to producers, consumers or related bodies and appear on national balance sheets as government expenditures;
- off-budget subsidies include tax-exemptions and preferential treatments which do not appear on national balance sheets as government expenditures.

It is recommended to deepen the analysis of fossil fuel subsidies (as compared to renewables) and examine how these subsidies can be reduced, suppressed and eventually replaced by fossil fuel taxation.