



Lifelong Learning Programme \* ERASMUS Intensive Program  
**“THE CARBON NEUTRAL CITY NEUSIEDL AM SEE in 2050”**  
 Supported by “Prodigious wisdom and appropriate technology for an era of transition”



Dear participants of the Intensive program  
 “Permaculture Design Course-The City of the Future”

In the foreword of the book *Worldchanging*<sup>1</sup> Van Jones is writing “Western nations are getting more and more ethnically diverse, but less and less economically prosperous. We have just a few years to learn how to live together if we want our children to have a future worth living in. It’s crystal clear that humanity has pushed nature beyond its biocapacity and has overshoot the planet’s limits. In 2009, a group of scientists led by the Stockholm Resilience Centre<sup>2</sup> took a shot at defining these boundaries. They established hard targets for three of the planetary systems: Stabilize the concentration of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> at 350 ppm; decrease ozone levels by 5%; and stop the acidification of our oceans.<sup>3</sup>

There’s no way the whole world could get rich the way Americans and Europeans did, even if we didn’t care about the consequences. We need to replace that model of development with a new one. If we spend the next two decades in action, we may be surprised at how much different life will be in forty years. We’ve never had more tools at hand for changing how cities are built. From Copenhagen, Melbourne, Vancouver, to Güssing and Kaindorf in Austria<sup>4</sup> ... with radical new architectural designs, we’re capable of making structure that use 90 percent less energy than the ones the last generation built, ...green infrastructure (urban gardening), district energy, bio farming ... and with new cultures of urban living. p.24

This year in 2013 the Institute of Soil Science at BOKU is continuing the Intensive program Aspern Seestadt.<sup>5</sup> In close cooperation with representatives from the City municipality of Neusiedl am See and local representatives and students from the Danube region, we will work for two weeks in September on new models for the **city of the future** for an era of transition. We want to explain the kind of living which means 2tCO<sub>2</sub>/per person by 2050 - instead of 7 - 11 CO<sub>2</sub> t/per person/a - at the moment within industrial countries.<sup>6</sup>

Alexander Steffen<sup>7</sup> argues it’s indispensable to life, of reducing the **ecological footprint** on the planet, because our western lifestyle of consuming is spreading also to developing countries. He explores on a video our planet’s future, telling powerful, inspiring stories about the hard choices facing humanity ... and our opportunity to create a much better tomorrow.<sup>8</sup>

The Intensive Program in Neusiedl am see will bring together students and professors from ten countries (BG, GR, RS, SI, HR, SK, HU, PT, BRAS, AT). The program will start with an introduction to the topic implemented by lectures and excursions. Continuing with a ‘Future Search Conference’ with participants of the IP and stakeholders of the region, we will summarize and develop ideas for the following project week.

For our purpose of finding a basic approach for a Zero Carbon city in Neusiedl am see within the next decades, we are working on four different topics: Ecology – Agriculture and forestry, Architecture and Spatial Planning, Solidarity Economy and Culture & identity. Professors and students are invited to write as a preparatory task for the IP, papers and case studies related to the four topics, appropriate to their professional background. As knowledge base we are suggesting a document for carbon sequestration “Zero Carbon Britain 2030”.<sup>9</sup>

If you have any questions, remarks or additional comments, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

We are expecting your papers and case studies until end of august.

We wish you a pleasant and peaceful holiday.

Sincerely  
 Yours

Werner Kvarda

<sup>1</sup> WORLDCHANGING; Ed. by Alexander Steffen. Publ. by ABRAMS in N.Y. ISBN 978-0-8109-9746-2

<sup>2</sup> Stockholm Resilience centre: <http://www.stockholmresilience.org/>

<sup>3</sup> Alex Steffen shows examples about Carbon Zero news <http://www.alexsteffen.com/carbon-zero-2/>

<sup>4</sup> Also the ‘2000 Watt society’ in Zurich (Switzerland), or Kaindorf (Stmk.) and Güssing (Bgl.) in Austria.

<sup>5</sup> “Permaculture Design Course-Aspern Seestadt-2012 <http://academia-danubiana.net/?p=410>

<sup>6</sup> In Kaindorf-Styria the future has already started: CO<sub>2</sub> Bilanz der Ökoregion <http://www.oekoregion-kaindorf.at/index.php/co2-bilanz>

<sup>7</sup> Alex Steffen: Planetary futurist - [http://www.ted.com/speakers/alex\\_steffen.html](http://www.ted.com/speakers/alex_steffen.html)

<sup>8</sup> Alex Steffen is recognising a sustainable future [http://www.ted.com/talks/alex\\_steffen\\_sees\\_a\\_sustainable\\_future.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/alex_steffen_sees_a_sustainable_future.html)

<sup>9</sup> Zero Carbon Britain 2030: <http://www.neweconomics.org/publications/entry/zero-carbon-britain-2030>