

Press release

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Climate protection: DONG Energy receives award, not protest

Copenhagen, Dec. 12, 2009: Instead of protesting against DONG Energy at their Copenhagen headquarters as planned, German climate protection activists today gave a reward to the energy company. On Friday, Dec. 11, 2009, DONG had published their decision to cancel the project to build a coal power plant in Lubmin near Greifswald at the German coast of the Baltic Sea. From year 2013 on, this power plant would have produced an annual output of 9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. A group of members of „climate pirates“, German NGO BUND and of community organisations from Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany, had come to the UN climate summit in Copenhagen in order to protest against DONG's plans to build the power plant in Lubmin. Now instead the activists' group congratulated DONG and honoured their wise decision to cancel the coal power plant plans: They gave a symbolic „golden windmill“ to company representative Mrs. Louise Münte.

„The decision to refrain from building the Lubmin power plant is an important step for DONG Energy and their sustainable climate protection targets. The energy provider is planning an 85% renewable resources energy mix. We want to encourage DONG to expand this percentage to 100“, says Christian Nitschke of „climate pirates“.

„We'd like to invite DONG to invest in renewable wind energy at the same German location. DONG can be sure of considerable public support for such a decision: 4,500 people have sent emails to DONG last week urging the company to invest in renewable energy. Furthermore, more than 37,000 citizens have hitherto called upon the provincial government to include climate protection in their planning guidelines,“ Ingo Wettstein, representative of a Greifswald based action group, explains to DONG's Louise Münte in Copenhagen.

„Now we really need an investment for the future. We will support this with all our energy.“ The coal-based power plant would have doubled the emission of carbon dioxide in this province from 2013 on. And that would have jeopardized Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's reduction target until 2020. Furthermore, the heated water for cooling the power plant would have damaged one of the most important spawning grounds for herrings in the Western part of the Baltic Sea and resulted in the spread of germs on the beaches in this regional tourist area,“ says Corinna Cwielag of BUND/ Friends of the Earth.

Photos are available from 1 p.m. on at the following address: <http://www.klimapiraten.net/site/node/36>

For questions please contact in Copenhagen:

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