

A social and ecological restart – 10 theses

1. Ecology and social issues belong together

You cannot work on Ecology and social issues separately, as they are fundamental matters of surviving and social fairness. To overcome this huge crisis of the environment and climate all over the world it requires intense efforts in politics, society, economy and of course on social matters. The Paris treaty needs to be carried out rapidly to stop global warming at the maximum of 1.5 °C, to stop the devastation of nature and to preserve biodiversity. Politics, society, production and consumption have to undergo transformation; the limits of this planet have to be accepted. Currently, the first world and rich people are consuming too much of the resources. The opposite is poverty and no access to these resources. This climate crisis, the devastation of nature and the injustice of social conditions are closely connected. Therefore, recourse consumption must be limited and socially just at the same time.

2. Climate change, devastation of nature and loss of biodiversity – the existential crisis for mankind

The Climate change as well as the rapid and irreversible loss of natural habitats and species are threatening human survival and the usage of technology cannot solve the problems. Nature is not only the storage of our resources; it needs to be treated carefully. That means, Nature has its own value! The comprehensive preservation and protection of different kinds of landscape, forests, soil, phreatic water, mountains, wetlands, rivers, seas and their non-human inhabitants are the premise for an effective conservation of climate and livelihood. Moreover, this is the basis for a sustainable economy within the planetary limits. The 17 aims for a sustainable development published by the United Nations are a useful tool to reach these goals.

3. The ecologically designed economy

The regulatory framework must set incentives for social-ecological innovations and financial markets, eliminate wrong incentives and provide the overcoming of behaviors harmful to climate and environment. This change of directions starts and provides the necessary modification of production, services and goods in the economy as well as the habits of all participants in the markets like the consumers or the government. The investments must change from raw infrastructures like streets, railroads, energy supply or waste disposal to a green infrastructure like integrated ecosystems and their services.

4. Energy transition – socially and ecologically fair

The core of this transition is a vast reduction of energy consumption, phasing out coal, gas and oil as fast as possible and the rapid eco-friendly expansion of renewable energy. Prizing of Carbondioxide must be connected with a socially fair redistribution, like climate taxes. Sustainable fair housing and consumption must be possible for everyone! That means a massive need of programs to support poorer people with energy efficient equipment and or their energy efficient repair as well as the increase of energy efficiency in housing. Social benefits must cover needs and consider costs of climate protection.

5. Participation for all in eco-friendly mobility

The change of mobility gives us the opportunity to combine the social and ecological aims. On one hand, this mobility should be accessible for all people and on the other hand, it should be non-polluting. Traffic jams, high Carbondioxide emissions and sealing of surface should be part of the past. In cities, in the countryside we need less cars and more public transport, more sharing offers. Barrier-free without financial obstacles.

6. The turnaround in agriculture and food

There is no future for the way we produce, trade and consume our food nowadays. The ecological, environmentally and climate-friendly turnaround of farming, including animal welfare and diverse farming structures, is necessary. Nevertheless, it needs to be adequate for producers. Fishing and fish farming must be environmentally friendly. Food whose production is associated with damage to nature such as water wastage and deforestation as well as human rights violations should be pushed out of the market. High quality, sustainable, water-saving and regionally produced food must have a reasonable price and at the same time be accessible to everyone. The aim of governmental control and subsidies must be nature-friendly food security and sovereignty.

7. Social justice requires redistribution

A socio-ecological transformation requires a fair sharing of the burden. Environmental damages are caused in particular by people with high incomes and who consume resources. This must be counteracted by tax and regulatory policies. People with social disadvantages and in structurally weak regions need support services appropriate to their needs in the upcoming changes. The minimum subsistence level for children, young people and adults must be designed in such a way that it enables ecologically sustainable participation.

8. Sustainable forms of work

The interests of employees in good working conditions, sufficient income, career prospects and security in times of change must be taken into account. Gainful employment should be secured in the long term and with the active participation of employees through private and public investment in ecologically sustainable products, processes and services. Forms of gainful employment must be further developed in a variety of ways and working hours must be redistributed. Forms of work such as family work, care work or civil society engagement as well as work for the common good must be socially recognised and valued. The Federal Employment Agency's employment promotion should include sustainability criteria.

9. Global responsibility

Many social, environmental and economic problems in other parts of the world are caused by caused or exacerbated by the economic practices, forms of production and consumption habits in countries with high economic power. It is a question of global justice that all people can lead a healthy and self-determined life, that their livelihoods are preserved and that their human rights and the rights and territories of indigenous peoples are respected. This includes fair trade policy and the expansion of and compliance with international environmental and social treaties.

10. Implementing change in times of crisis

Tackling the major ecological crises of our time - climate change, loss of species and habitats and the pollution of the environment - must be used to implement a new, sustainable and socially just economy and society. The consequences of the Russian attack on Ukraine show again how huge and problematic the dependence on fossil energies is. The protection of the climate, of biodiversity, but also of peace, democracy and social cohesion requires the fastest possible withdrawal from coal, oil and gas as well as the extraction and use of other raw materials that are harmful to nature.