

Editorial

Dear readers,

2011 was the year of the nuclear disaster in Fukushima. In Germany it marked the beginning of a new era. On 9 June 2011, three months after a severe earthquake hit the east coast of Japan, triggering the tsunami that caused the core meltdown in three reactor blocks at the nuclear power plant Fukushima I, Chancellor Angela Merkel announced Germany's new "path to the energy of the future" in her government policy statement.

The key points of the plan: nuclear power usage was to be phased out in Germany by 2022 and renewables were to become the central pillar of the country's future energy supply. The federal government's ad-hoc legislation was met with astonishment and then considerable respect – in particular at the international level. Germany was seen as a trailblazer for the green energy transition.

Years later it is lagging behind: in the 2018 global Energy Transition Index of the World Economic Forum, Germany landed in sixteenth position. And it was only with great difficulty that the current grand coalition government was able to pass its "Climate Protection Programme 2030". The plan envisages a price tag for polluting CO₂ emissions, subsidy schemes and, as its key element, the "constant and reliable expansion of renewables." For most experts, the plan does not go far enough: the carbon pricing policy is ineffective, the expansion of wind energy across the country is being hindered more than helped, and the quest to achieve the CO₂ reduction targets by 2030 is doomed to fail, critics say.

The current state of affairs shows that the eco-friendly restructuring of the energy system impacts society as a whole and presents politics with im-

mense challenges. And yet the energy transition, the task of the century, is well underway. Many green technologies are already competitive, and innovative solutions are just waiting to be implemented.

Oldenburg researchers are also busily researching topics related to the energy transition. In this issue of EINBLICKE we introduce a few examples: from energy informatics, wind physics and energy meteorology to economic policy, sustainable production, innovation sociology and sustainability research.

We wish you a stimulating read of these and the many other articles in this magazine.

Yours truly,
the EINBLICKE editorial team

