Developed by EU Learning, www.EULearning.ca
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LESSON PLANS (Teacher Plan 4)

Title: EU Climate Change Policy

Section 4- Strategy: EU Member States+ Canada

While the EU has a very complex and ambitious set of goals for combating climate change, the EU is in itself not a state, but a collection of states, which are bound together by treaties. The EU as a whole does not have control over individual states' domestic policies, even in climate change regulations.

This section looks at different countries within the EU: Germany, the UK, and Denmark. All three countries are members of the EU, yet all three have different climate goals which employ different strategies for dealing with energy and climate change.

Keep in mind different factors when analyzing why a certain country would enact certain energy and climate policies such as: population size, geography, natural resources, history, and socio-economic ideology.

At the end, you can compare the three countries' characteristics and goals to those of Canada, noting any similarities and differences.

Germany

In Germany, the current energy policy is called Energiewende" or "Energy Change"

Started in 1970s with the anti-nuclear movement, 370,000 jobs have been created in the renewable market.

Reasons for "Energiewende"

- Fight climate change (invest in Green Energy)
- Reduce energy imports
- Reduce and eliminate threats to nuclear power (phase out by 2022)
- Energy security (Russian gas)
- Strengthen local economies through social justice (direct democracy)

Implementation

- Replace oil/gas and nuclear, with renewable energies
- Lower energy consumption through efficiency
- Germany's renewable energy act (EEG) which gives renewable energy priority on the grid
- Consumers can now become energy producers (solar panels on their house can be sold back to the grid)

Goal: Mandatory 80% cuts in emissions by 2050[1]

UK

Domestic Goals:

- eliminate coal-fired power stations by 2025
- new gas-fired power stations a priority
- Invest in wind-power (coasts)
- Continue to advocate oil and gas industry (Scotland)
- Mandatory 80% cut in emissions by 2050

Implementation:

- Adaptation sub-committee helps and recommends policy for the UK government as well as private businesses to curb emissions
- Housing and community grants (cuts in pricing for installing green energy solutions)
- Continue to work with the EU through ETS (European Trading System)[2]

Future discussion: How will Brexit potentially effect the EU-UK climate relationship?

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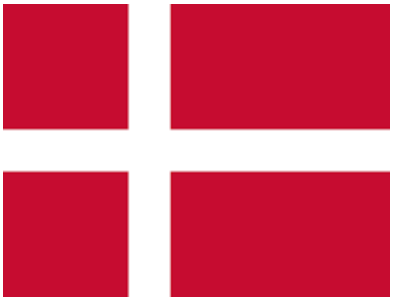
[1] Government of Germany. *German Energy Transition.* 2015. http://energytransition.de/ (accessed 03 20, 2016).

[2] Government of the United Kingdom. *A new direction for UK energy policy.* 2015. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-direction-for-uk-energy-policy (accessed 03 20, 2016).

Denmark



Denmark has the most ambitious green energy plan of any European Nation.

Domestic Goals:

- 2020, 50% of electricity supplied by wind power
- Reduce total energy consumption by 7% by 2020 from 2010 levels
- 35% of energy is renewable form by 2020
- Aim to cut emissions 40% by 2030 (EU goal is 30%)
- Aim 100% of its energy to be green by 2050

Implementation:

- Heavy wind and solar power investment.
- In particular wind farms in the sea (Denmark's geography plays a large part in this).
- Funded by Public Service Obligation tariff (every Danish citizen is taxed on their energy bill)[3]

Canada

Domestic:

Markets determine Canada's energy policies by facilitating competition through supply and demand.

Canada's provinces directly manage their respective resources

[3] Government of Denmark. *Danish Climate and Energy Policy.* 2015. http://www.ens.dk/en/policy/danish-climate-energy-policy (accessed 03 20, 2016).

The federal government can directly intervene in energy policy on behalf of the public good. (I.e. health and safety, which includes pipelines)

The National Energy Board: Promote the public interest safety and security, environmental protection and efficient energy infrastructure and markets in the regulation of pipelines, transmission lines, energy development and trade

Agreements:

Western Accord: Agreement between the Federal Government and Alberta, Saskatchewan, and BC on gas pricing and taxation

Atlantic Accord: Agreement between the Federal Government and Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, on gas pricing and taxation

Free Trade Agreement: NAFTA- Trade agreement with the U.S that allows the U.S to invest in the Canadian market (80% of our oil is exported to the U.S)[4]

*Keystone XL pipeline deals with NAFTA

Section 4 Video

Power Play Germany: Presented by Journeyman Pictures

*To access the video, right click and open the hyperlink.

Section 4 Key Terms:

NAFTA- North American Free Trade Agreement- An agreement that reduces trade barriers between Mexico, Canada and the U.S. Climate laws are intertwined between our trade agreements (For example, a Canada could not enact a law that would violate a NAFTA clause related to climate change, or it would be contested in court).

Housing/Community Grants- Money the government gives households in order to give incentive to invest in green energy. An example would be the government would pay 50% of your new green energy heater.

Energy Security- The association between national security and the availability of natural resources for energy consumption is vital. Access to cheap energy has become essential to the functioning of modern economies. However, the uneven distribution of energy supplies among countries has led to significant vulnerabilities.

[4] Government of Canada. *Canada's Climate and Energy Policy.* 2016. http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/energy-resources/15903 (accessed 03 20, 2015).

Section 4 Activity:

Separate the classroom into four groups. Each group will represent the UK, Danish, and German, Canadian government.

Unlike section 3 where your goal was to come up with a collective plan to fight climate change, for this section your plan will be strictly domestic (your own country).

Come up with your own countries' plan to tackle climate change.

Factors to consider:

- Geography
- Natural resources (or lack thereof)
- Security concerns
- Total population
- Political situation (current government in power)

Present your plan to the class and explain the following:

- Core principles (what strategy will you use?)
- Length of the plan?
- Total investment - i.e.: How are you going to pay for the plan – tax, private investment, and/or public investment (think of the public mood in each country and what they would accept/decline)
- Explain the economic benefits of the plan - why and how will your plan work when sustaining GDP growth?
- Explain the environmental benefits of your plan
- Why does the plan work for your country, considering its geography, population, public opinion, etc.

After the three presentations, have a class discussion on the positives and negatives of each plan.

Compare and contrast the three European countries with Canada. What challenges does Canada face that Europe does not, and vice-versa?

If you have extra time, discuss what the Trudeau government may want to adopt from European nations? What would Canada not be willing to adopt?