

# LCOY POSITION PAPER

## RETHINKING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

In 2020 the Covid-19 crisis took the world off its hinges. Ever since governments have been facing the great humanitarian crisis with immediate and courageous action. While the virus primarily endangers the elderly, the climate crisis is an unprecedented threat to younger generations. Politics and society have to take the climate crisis as serious as the Covid-19 crisis and take immediate measures. This paper is the demand of around 200 participants of the 3rd youth climate conference - LCOY Austria 2020, that takes place in the run-up to the UN climate conference. In 2015, Austria committed to complying with the Paris Agreement. In this context, LCOY Austria calls for the implementation of the following measures. Young people have a right to a secure and worthwhile future.



### CLIMATE COMMUNICATION

- **Positive communication:** The climate crisis not only a threat and an opportunity to redesign society in a better way
- Acknowledge climate change as a political and **social cross-cutting issue** that needs to be integrated in every aspect of society and **prioritised** in ministries and other institutions
- **Treat every crisis as a crisis** - communicate the importance and urgency of climate action
- Take the **dangers** and **responsibility** of the climate crisis seriously and communicate them

### RULES AND REGULATIONS



- Anchor climate protection and biodiversity conservation in the **constitution**
- Make the environment a **legal person**
- Make **ecocide a criminal offence**
- Check every law for **compatibility** with climate goals (introduce climate check immediately)
- Create **transparency** in legislation (lobby register, party finances)
- Introduce an independent, interdisciplinary **council of climate experts** (for the implementation of climate laws).



### ECONOMIC POLICIES - AUSTRIA

- Immediately introduce a national **CO2-price**
- Publish and abolish **climate-damaging subsidies**
- **Reconstruction funds & economic aid** for innovative and green alternatives
- Reorient **companies with state participation** (AUA, OMV)
- **Transition** should be social and ecological
- Introduce a **kerosene tax** in Austria
- Aim for an **unconditional basic income**

### ECONOMIC POLICIES - EU / INTERNATIONAL



- Increase the **price for CO2**
- Introduce a **minimum price in the ETS** (planning security)
- Tie **COVID-19 recovery spendings** to green criteria (e.g. green job campaign, green investments)
- Use economic policy instruments in **foreign trade** for climate protection (e.g. foreign trade tariffs, CO2 border tariffs, ...)
- Stop **fossil fuel subsidies**
- Implement a **circular economy**
- Introduce a **kerosene tax**



## ENERGY POLICIES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRY

- Accelerate the **energy transition**
- Massively expand **renewable energy deployment**
- Observe **environmental compatibility**
- Increase energy **efficiency**
- Rebuild infrastructure for a **climate-neutral energy system**
- Aim for benefits of a **EU-wide energy system**
- Stop approving or promoting new **natural gas projects**



## YOUTH, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL POLICIES

- **Institutionalise the LCOY** (paid internships for young organisers).
- Increase the **involvement of youth organisations** and **NGOs** in public projects and legislative processes.
- Adapt **syllabus** to 21st century issues
- Adapt **education system** to scientific evidence
- Introduce **climate education** in schools
- Teach **heterodox economics** as opposed to mainstream neoclassical theories



## LAND USE, AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Favour **small-scale and organic** agriculture **through taxation**
- Internalise **external effects** in meat consumption
- **Awareness campaigns** on sustainable, regional food consumption
- Stop & reverse **land sealing**
- Change the **funding structure** in agriculture, see above
- Ban **mass animal husbandry**
- Introduce understandable **food labelling**



## BUILDINGS AND TRANSPORT

- Develop a **holistic transport concept**
- Implement largely **car-free cities**
- Make **train** journeys and **public transport** more attractive (lower prices, better connections & night train services)
- Improve **cycling** and **walking infrastructure**
- Ban **domestic flights**
- Introduce **PV-obligation** in new buildings
- Ban **oil** and **gas heating** in new buildings
- Accelerate **heating exchange & renovation rate**
- Put **freight** on rail



We are in the rare position to use one of the most serious crises of the Republic to emerge from it stronger and more sustainable than Austria has ever been.

- Participant of the LCOY Austria 2020



## TAKE-AWAY MESSAGE FROM THE LCOY AUSTRIA

Climate action is not marked by absence of solutions. What we rather need is courage to take action and courage to implement change. Courage lies within the power of the collective. That's why the motto of LCOY Austria is *Rethinking the future together*. Collective action builds upon the right for active involvement of each individual as well as on the right to be heard. This is particularly true for the voices of the youth, whose future depend on how responsibly politicians implement climate action measures today. Climate change is not only the greatest threat of our time, it is also the greatest prospect for the worthwhile and sustainable transformation of our future.

As decision makers, we are asking you to be part of the solution.