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Wind turbines, biomass and solar power plants, a challenge for spatial planning?

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We have only one earth ... we must always be clear about what we want and what we don't want ... Before the background of the nuclear phaseout and the search for alternative energy: May we sacrifice now simply the scenery? Energy projects polarize - Opponents are preventers ... we must have a solution- and future-oriented approach to the challenges of energy projects in the context with the spatial planning. In my presentation I give a short - incomplete - overview of the various major energy projects in the canton of St. Gallen and the associated challenges for the spatial planning. Do energy projects radically differ from other approval procedures?

In the energy sector very much is going on - from large to small projects in biomass, wind energy, geothermal energy, solar energy or hydropower. Many approval procedures take place without major problems. But what can be space-development-related issues? When does a project become liable to planning? When can a project be realised only in a construction zone? How does an interest consideration go?

At the beginning of a major project stands the feasibility study. This is followed by the site evaluation (Where is the appropriate location? What are the site requirements? What are the location standards? Where do conflicts exist?). And why should energy projects be differently treated than a commercial building, a nature conservation project, a tourism project?

We have unique sceneries and only a few unique natural values which cannot be simply restored. What is this worth to us? A balancing of interests is necessary.

Climate Change! What about you?