

Testing the Green Growth Hypothesis

Reinhard Mechler (WU/IIASA)

"Science Workshop"

2. International Conference "Growth in Transition"

October 10th 2012 Aula der Wissenschaften, 1010 Vienna

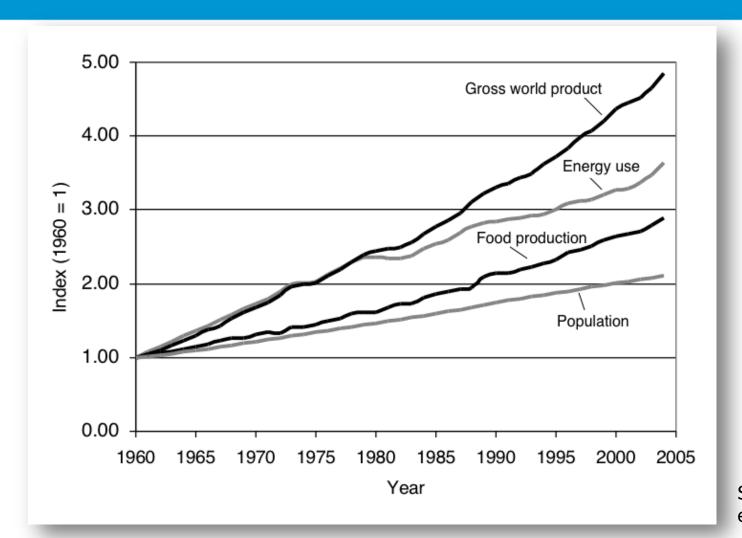
The Talks... in colors of the new economy wirtschafts wien vienna universität vienna universität

- 1. Outlining the challenges
 - Reinhard Mechler
- 2. Challenging the economic foundations of Green Growth
 - Serban Scrieciu
- 3. Costs and effects associated with the Kyoto protocol for Austria
 - Teresa Weiss
- 4. Long term growth prospects/problems when considering climate change
 - Armon Rezai
- 5. Guest speaker: Political economy of climate mitigation
 - Detlef Sprinz (PIK)

Discussion...

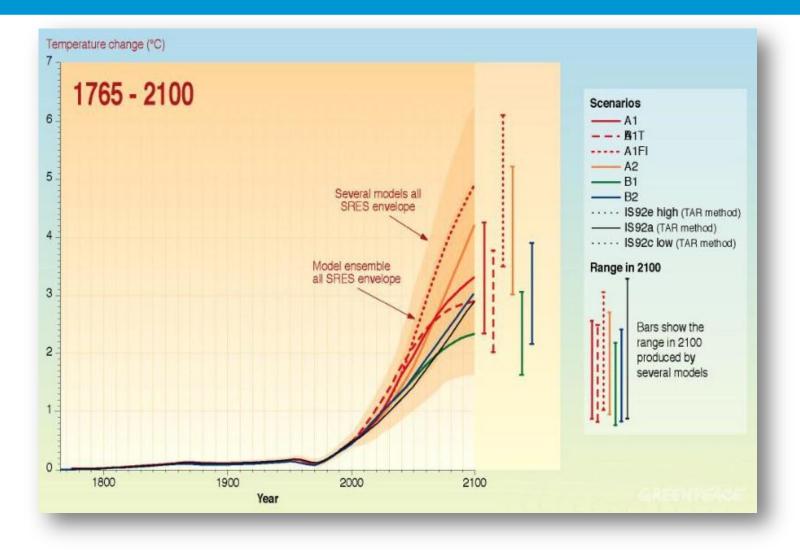
Point of departure: we are growing





Source: Goodwin et al., 2008

One consequence: We are warming the planet Winversität Winversität



Climate change is already here: Recent heat extremes in Austria are in line with projections by climate change science



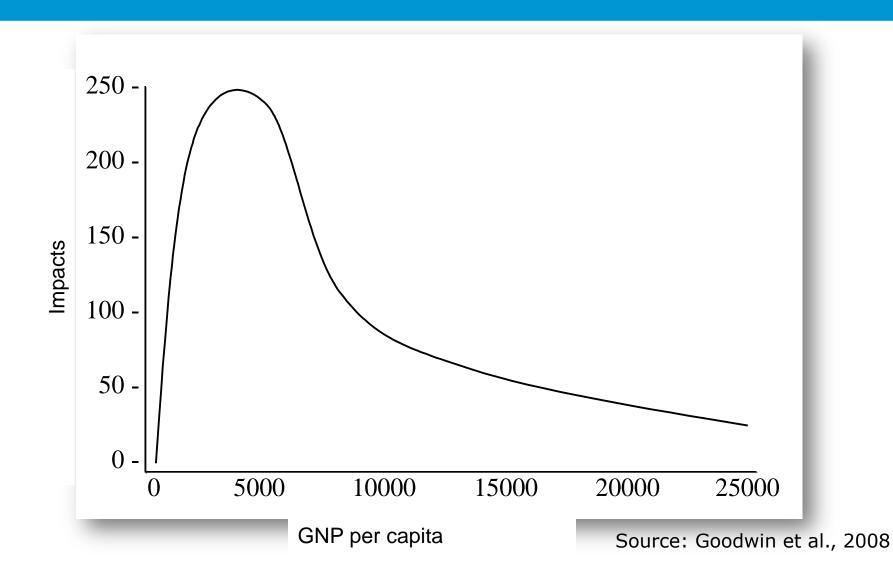


Das letzte Aprilwochenende brachte sommerliche Temperaturen. In der Wiener Innenstadt wurden 29,4 Grad gemessen. Damit wurde ein neuer Hitzerekord aufgestellt.



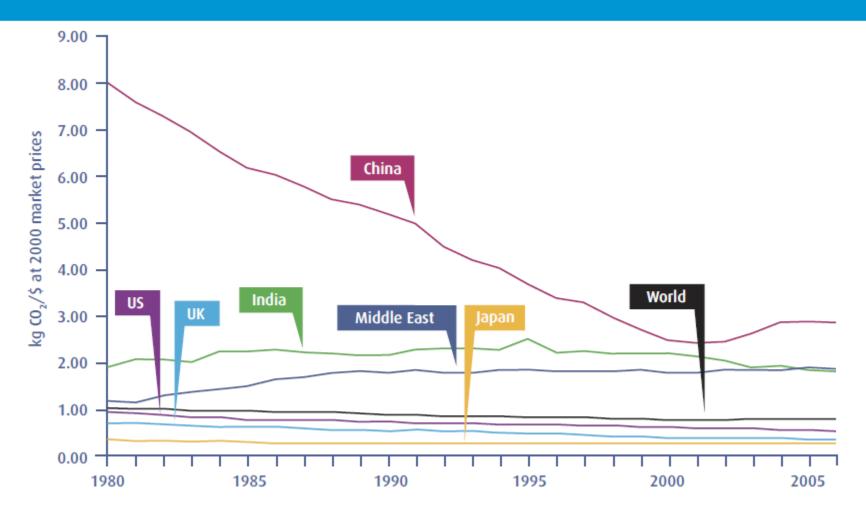
Decoupling possible? Environmental Kuznets





Yes!
Relative decoupling of carbon intensity





Source: Jackson, 2009

No!

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Absolute decoupling and scale: "Big is beautiful"

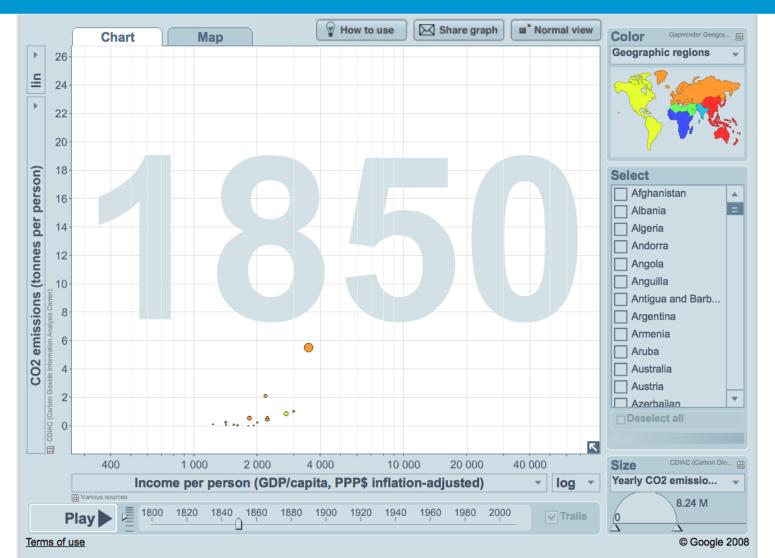
'I would say this is most environmentally friendly cruise ship to date. It is much more efficient than other similar ships. ... It dumps no sewage into the sea, reuses its waste water and consumes 25 percent less power than similar, but smaller, cruise liners.' (Project engineer)



Source: Gapminder, 2012

Absolute decoupling has not occurred on a large scale





Source: Gapminder, 2012

Absolute decoupling has not occurred on a large scale





UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

Gapminder, 2012

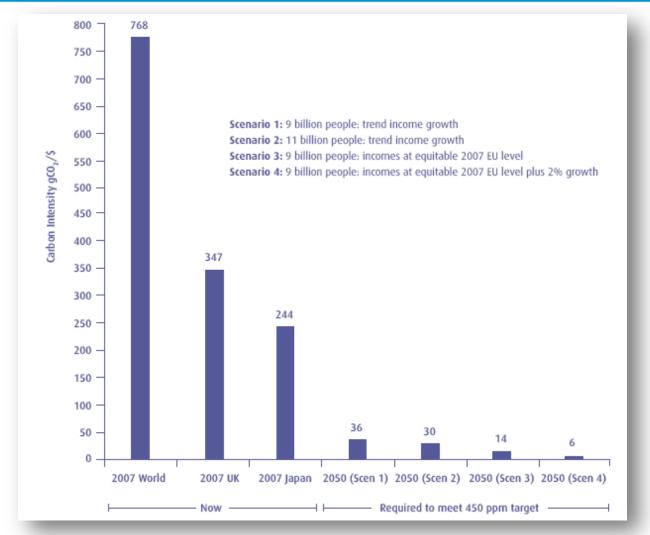
Source:

Absolute decoupling has not occurred on a large scale



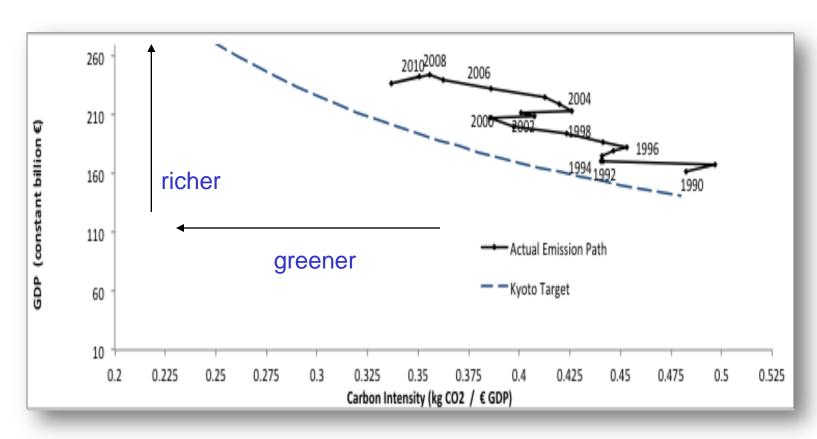
And the challenges are large Carbon intensity: necessary reductions for 2 degree warming







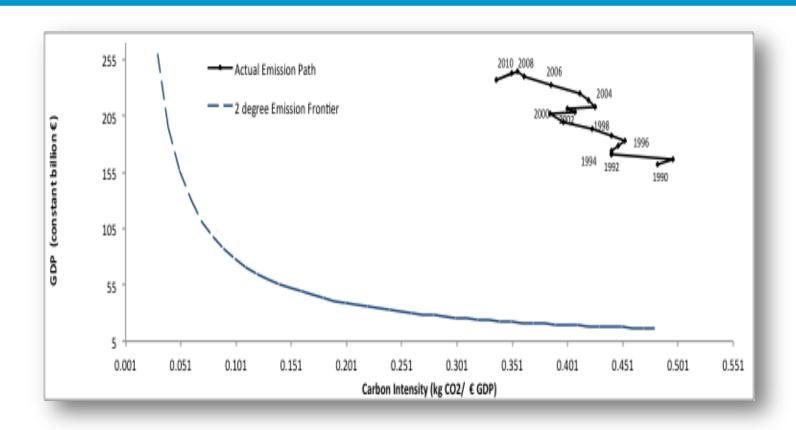
Austria and Kyoto protocol reductions



Source: Mechler, Rezai and Stagl, 2010

And: for 2 degree target much more needed

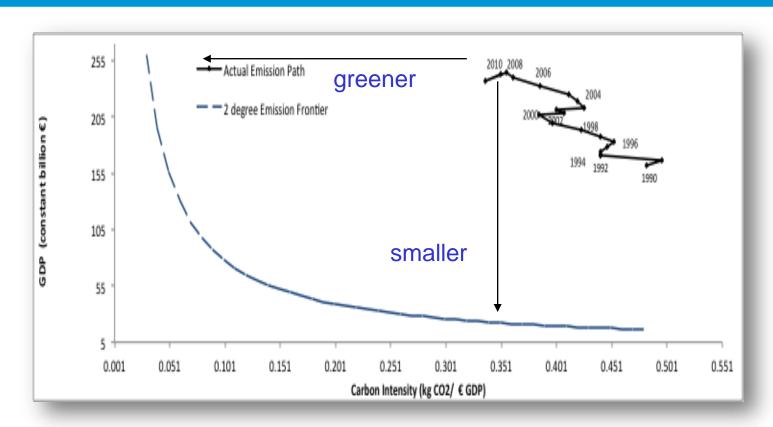




Source: Mechler, Rezai and Stagl, 2010

Also: for 2 degree target much more needed





Curves suggest two options

- •Massively decrease carbon intensity in terms of CO2/GDP (factor of 10)
- •Stagnate or reduce GDP to achieve target

Source: Mechler, Rezai and Stagl, 2010



Austria is an interesting case as...

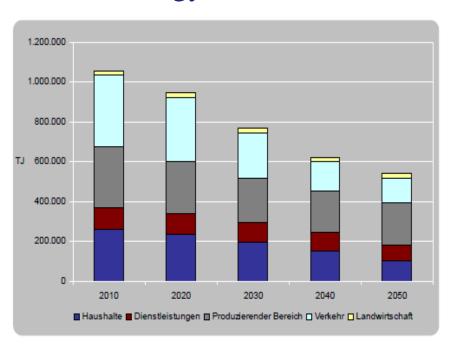
- Agreed to reduce emissions by 13% compared to 1990 levels
- Expected to be about 27% over 1990 levels at end of 2012
- Spent about 1.4 billion Euro domestically since 2008 on climate mitigation projects
- Purchased "hot air" via flexible mechanisms: about 700 Million Euro to the end of the Kyoto period
 - Since 2008: 550 million Euro for 48 million tons CO2 eq. at 9
 Euro/ton
 - 2012: 160 million Euro for 32 million tons tons CO2 eq. at 5
 Euro/ton

Calling the Growth Busters the right answer? ** AND BUSINESS**

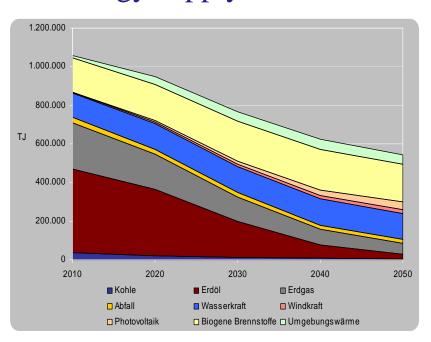


Or are there other ways? Longterm scenarios developed for Greenpeace study business to bu

Final energy demand



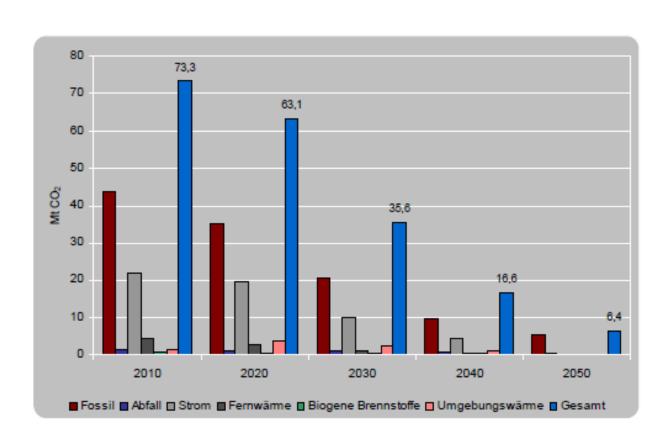
Energy supply



Source: Energie [R]evolution, Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna 2011



Projecting decreasing CO2 emissions



Source: Energie [R]evolution, Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna 2011

"Green growth?" Project

- Objectives



- Taking Austria as one rather typical example, we illustrate the difficulties and costs of reconciling growth with meeting environmental objectives, such as
 - Short term: Kyoto protocol period (2008-2012)
 - Longer term: stabilizing at 2 degrees by 2050 and beyond
- Macroeconomic theorizing and modelling
- Thinking about accommodating policies (labor, public investment, social policies)
- Sponsored by Jubilaeumsfonds Austria

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