

INVITATION:

Resource Efficiency webinar special on decoupling, with Professor Ernst von Weizsaecker.

12noon – 1PM (CET) on Wednesday, 21 January 2015

To:

National Focal Points

NRCs for Resource-efficient economy and the environment

NRCs for State of Environment

NRCs for Waste

Dear Colleagues,

As part of the series of [resource efficiency webinars](#), Professor Ernst von Weizsaecker will share his thoughts on the current patterns of resource use, progress with decoupling, and policy options as well as technological possibilities to accelerate decoupling and to increase resource productivity.

This special one-off webinar for the Eionet network will take place on Wednesday, 21 January 2015 from 12noon till 1PM (CET).



To register, please sign up at:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zw6VsKbeJf5_oKeBP8uDvH42CKdeoc7m9_AwxyGMxmo/edit

On 20 January 2015, we will email the registered participants detailed log-in instructions for the webinar.

About the Speaker:

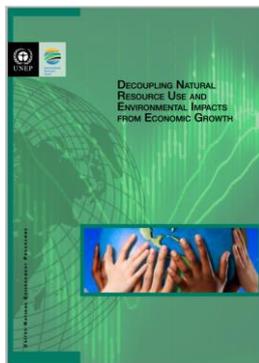
One of the most charismatic scientists, politicians, and thought leaders working on sustainable use of natural resources, Professor Ernst von Weizsaecker was founder and president (1991–2000) of the [Wuppertal Institute](#), the chair of the environment committee at the Bundestag, and member of the [Club of Rome](#) since 1992. In 2011, he was elected co-president of the Club of Rome.

He wrote the books *Factor Four: Doubling Wealth, Halving Resource Use* (1995), its follow-up, [Factor 5](#) (2009) and *Limits to Privatization*.

Since 2007 Ernst has served as co-chair of the [International Resource Panel](#), where he co-authored two Resource Panel reports on decoupling:

Decoupling Natural Resource Use and Environmental Impacts from Economic Growth (UNEP Resource Panel 2011)

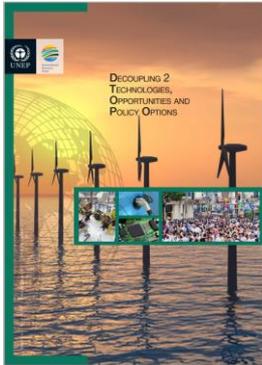
http://www.unep.org/resourcepanel/decoupling/files/pdf/Decoupling_Report_English.pdf



This is the first in a planned series of International Resource Panel reports on decoupling of human well-being from resource use. Conceived as an attempt to scope out the challenges, it presents basic facts and figures on natural resource flows worldwide. Drawing on four country studies (China, Germany, Japan and South Africa) the report shows that breaking the link between human well-being and resource consumption is necessary and possible but in reality is hardly happening.

Decoupling 2: Technologies, Opportunities and Policy Options (UNEP Resource Panel, 2014)

http://www.unep.org/resourcepanel/Portals/24102/PDFs/IRP_DECOUPLING_2_REPORT.pdf



This follow-up report highlights existing technological possibilities and opportunities for both developing and developed countries to accelerate decoupling and reap the environmental and economic benefits of increased resource productivity.

This report examines several policy options that have proved to be successful in helping different countries to improve resource productivity in various sectors of their economy. It also highlights examples that demonstrate significant progress towards decoupling economic growth from resource use.

There is growing evidence that decoupling will be one of the next big opportunities for innovation, wise use of resources, and thus for continued economic development. Policymakers along with corporate leaders with vision and an understanding of political realities can take significant steps to benefit from future resource trends and decoupling opportunities.

About the International Resource Panel

<http://www.unep.org/resourcepanel/new/>

The International Resource Panel was launched by the United Nations Environment Programme in 2007 to build and share the knowledge needed to improve the use of resources worldwide. Its mission is:

- to provide independent, coherent and authoritative scientific assessments of policy relevance on the sustainable use of natural resources and, in particular, their environmental impacts over the full life cycle; and
- to contribute to a better understanding of how to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.

Bringing together world renowned scientists, the Resource Panel is a unique science policy interface on the sustainable management of natural resources, seeking to develop practical solutions for policymakers, industry and society.

To date, the International Resource Panel has published [twelve reports](#) :

1. Towards Sustainable Production and Use of Resources: Assessing Biofuels (2009)
2. Assessing the Environmental Impacts of Consumption and Production: Priority Products and Materials (2010)
3. Metal Stocks in Society: Scientific Synthesis (2010)
4. Decoupling Natural Resource Use and Environmental Impacts from Economic Growth (2011)
5. Recycling Rates of Metals: A Status Report (2011)
6. Measuring Water Use in a Green Economy (2012)
7. Metal Recycling: Opportunities, Limits, Infrastructure (2013)
8. City Level Decoupling: Urban Resource Flows and the Governance of Infrastructure Transitions (2013)
9. Environmental Risks and Challenges of Anthropogenic Metals Flows and Cycles (2013)
10. Assessing Global Land Use: Balancing Consumption with Sustainable Supply (2014)
11. Building Natural Capital: How REDD+ can Support a Green Economy (2014)
12. Decoupling 2: Technologies, Opportunities and Policy Options (2014)

Nine additional reports are currently under preparation.