

**Table 1 – Political Stances on *Energiewende*:  
Conventional Energy Coalition (CEC) vs. Sustainable Energy Coalition (SEC)**  
Source: [Heartie School of Experts, 2013](#)

Issue	CEC	SEC
<b>Cost-Efficiency</b>	<p><b><i>Energiewende</i> costs are so high that they threaten Germany’s competitiveness.</b> Conventional power is necessary for keeping costs down for both consumers and energy-intensive industries.</p> <p><b>Preferential grid access for renewables distorts markets, and guaranteed payments fail to incentivize productivity.</b></p> <p><b>Germany’s feed-in tariff (FIT) is not cost-efficient,</b> and a quota system would be a cheaper alternative.</p> <p><b>Optimization of distributed generation should occur within the European electricity market, not simply within Germany.</b> A more cost-efficient energy system would, for instance, allow “the production of solar power in southern Europe, electricity storage in Scandinavia, and the generation of wind power off-shore.”</p>	<p><b>Current costs of the <i>Energiewende</i> should be viewed as long-term investments</b> that will pay off in light of rising energy prices and decreasing costs for renewable energy equipment. Heavy industry has been exempt from most costs, and only a few industries are significantly affected by high electricity costs – those special cases should be considered closely.</p> <p><b>Today’s prices for conventional energy neglect the large external costs from environmental damages.</b> Renewable energy would already be cost-competitive if these external costs were included in current balances.</p> <p><b>Massive subsidies for nuclear and fossil fuels</b> have created path dependence. To transform the energy system, renewables needed significant support in the beginning of the transition, but this support is reduced every quarter and renewables are fast approaching grid parity.</p> <p><b>The FIT is working,</b> and calls for a quota system, a type of system with mixed results, are politically charged stall tactics.</p> <p><b>Contends that Germany is making progress in promoting an optimized, integrate European electricity market.</b> However, Germany cannot force its European counterparts to be more proactive in pursuing an energy transition. Germany can and should move ahead if it so chooses.</p>
<b>Grid Reliability</b>	<p><b>Conventional power will remain necessary for grid reliability,</b> for renewables destabilize the grid and cannot be structured in a way to replace conventional fuels.</p>	<p>Reaching 30% renewables has not destabilized the grid, and <b>Germany’s grid remains one of the most reliable in Europe and the world.</b> Grid reliability must be taken into account at all steps of the <i>Energiewende</i> and may require backups from traditional fuels.</p>
<b>Other</b>	<p><b><i>Energiewende</i>’s governance system is overly complex.</b> In particular, the CEC criticizes, “the unreliability of political decisions, incoherent jurisdictions, and insufficient coordination among the national, state, and municipal concepts.”</p>	<p>Employment effects from the renewables industry’s growth, have been overwhelmingly positive, for “the renewable energy sector already employed 387,000 people in 2011 and is likely to employ 600,000 by 2020.”</p>

**Table 2 – Public, Private, and Non-Profit Leadership:  
Conventional Energy Coalition (CEC) vs. Sustainable Energy Coalition (SEC)**  
Source: [Heartie School of Experts, 2013](#)

	<b>CEC</b>	<b>SEC</b>
<b>Politics</b>	The FDP party; Parts of the CDU/CSU; Parts of the SPD.	The Greens; Large parts of the SPD; The Left; Parts of the CDU/CSU; Various environmental groups and citizens initiatives.
<b>Entities – Private, Non-Profit, and Associations</b>	<p>Private: The big four energy producers (E.ON, RWE, Vattenfall, and EnBW); The Stadwerk (public utility companies that run primarily on fossil fuels and generate 10% of the national power and own more than 50% of the country’s low voltage distribution); The transmission system operators (TSOs); The energy-intensive industries and their aligned organizations.</p> <p>Non-Profits/Associations: The Federation of German Industry (BDI) “represents 38 associations with about 100,000 companies and 8 million employees.” While dominated by pro-CEC interests, this group is technically split as it includes RE producers.</p>	<p>Private: Renewable energy companies and their associations.</p> <p>Non-Profit/Associations: The German Renewable Energy Association (BEE), which includes more than 25 technology-specific organizations and 30,000 companies and individual members; the German Engineering Association (VDMA, which comprises 3,100 member companies accounting for 947,000 employees and 2011 sales of over EU\$200 billion; World Wildlife Fund (WWF); Greenpeace; Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND); German Environmental Aid Association (DUH); Germanwatch; Klima-Allianz (comprises 110 organizations and 10 million members); European Association for Renewables; Friends of Solar Energy Association; Research institutes relevant to fields such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, storage, grid technology, etc.; and many others.</p>