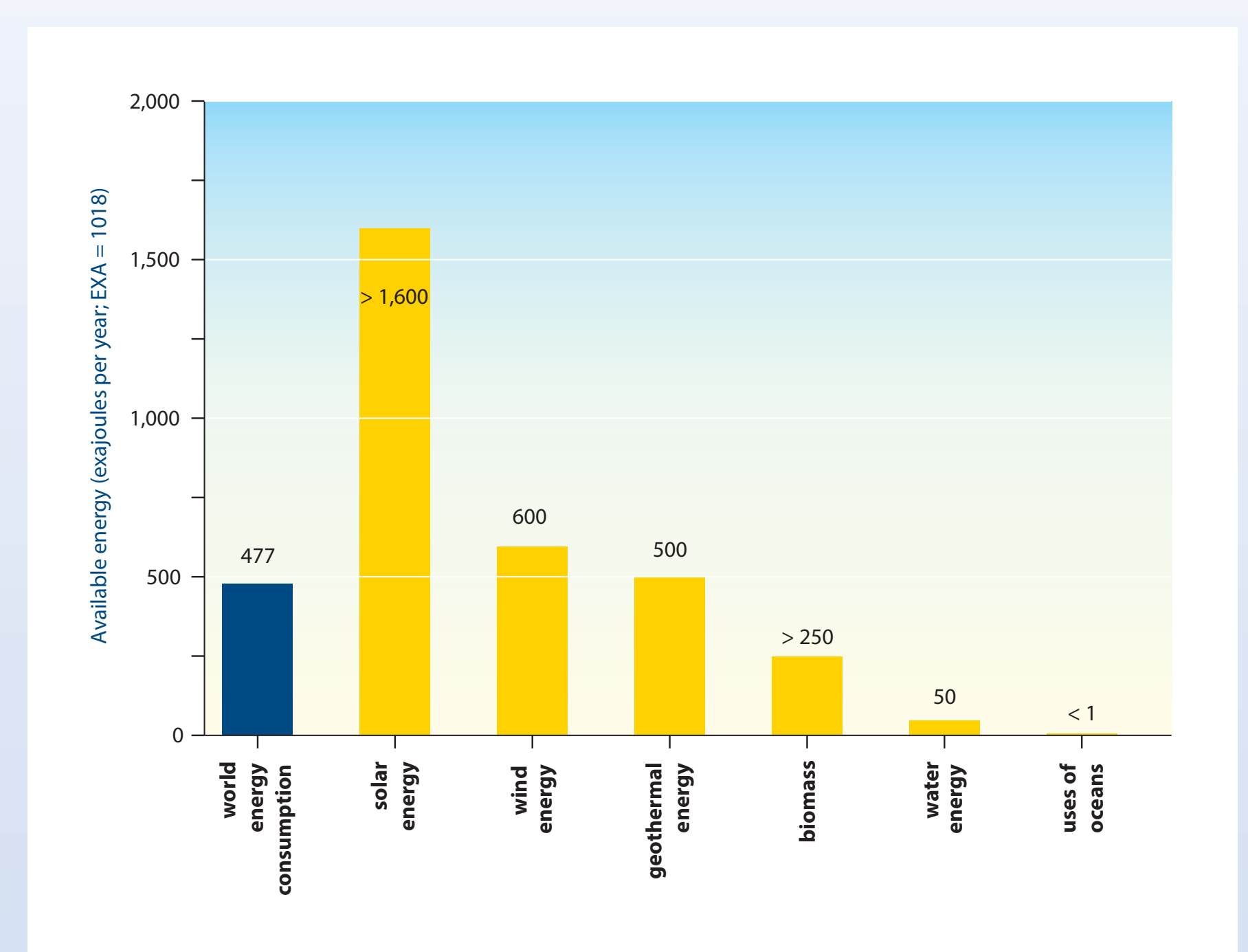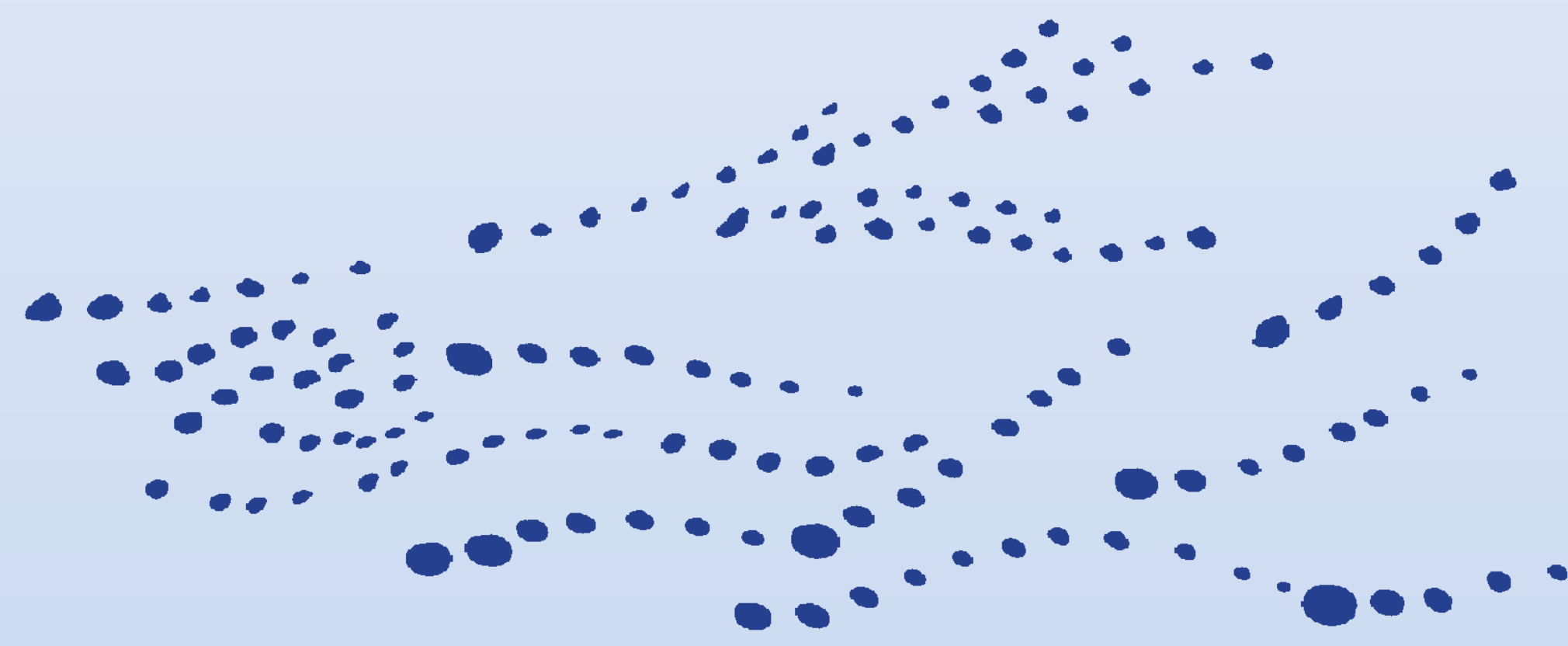# PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The decisive factors of whether we head for sustainable development or not will be activities at the local level, in communities and in municipalities, where people know one another and where they can see the impact of their activities best.

A conference in Rio de Janeiro (1992) elaborated the vision and the fulfilment of sustainable development at the local level – Agenda 21, which is a "handbook" explaining the path to sustainable development.

Do you know if your municipality is involved in Local Agenda 21?

Global energy consumption in 2005 against the potential of renewable resources exploited with current technologies. (adapted from WorldWatch Institute, 2009)

Did you know that...

In terms of engaging municipalities in Local Agenda 21, Sweden and other Scandinavian countries rank first (already in 2001 nearly 100% of municipalities were involved), closely followed by, for example, Great Britain. African and South American countries record the poorest rate of involved municipalities and local communities.
In the Czech Republic, cities and municipalities are slow in becoming involved; there are not more than several dozen members.
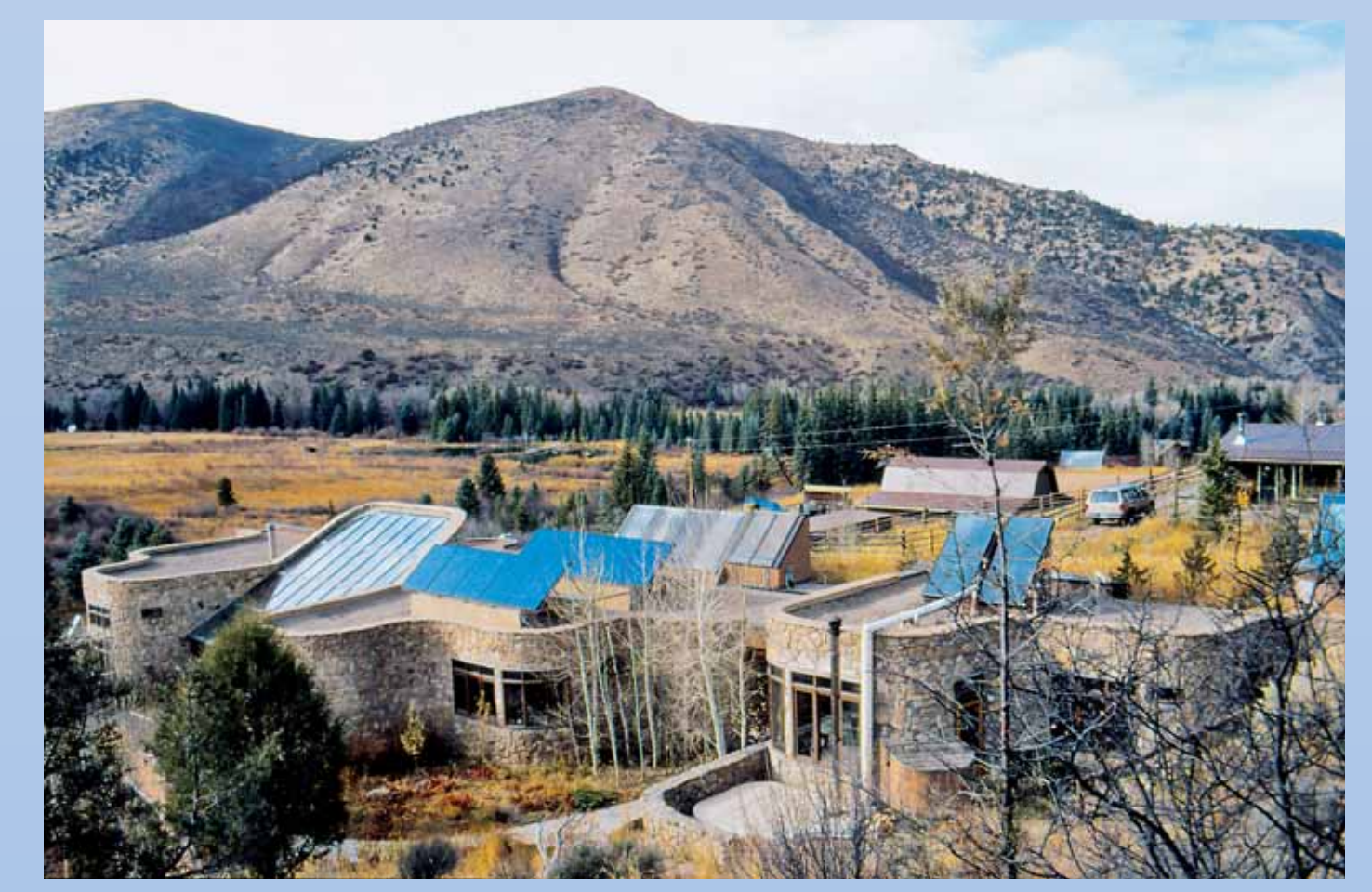
What can we do as individual citizens for sustainable development?

1. Reduction in emissions from our home energy use

- opting for energy-efficient lighting
- opting for energy-efficient appliances when making new purchases
- proper operation and maintenance of household appliances
- efficient heating of the house or flat
- high quality insulation of the house or flat
- reduction in the consumption of hot water
- reduction in standby power waste

A well with drinking water with 32 solar panels installed on it. Electric power from these solar panels is used for getting water from the depth to the surface. (Haiti)

At the beginning of the 1980s Amory and Hunter Lovins established a small research institute called the Rocky Mountain Institute, which studies modern and economical technologies compatible with sustainable development. Compared to other buildings of this kind, this one saves 99% of the energy for heating and 90% of the electricity needed for the household. (USA)

„Think globally, act locally, and change individually." ~ Vlastimil Marek

2. More economical transportation

- replacement of driving by walking, cycling, or taking public transportation wherever possible
- more economical driving
- consideration of efficiency when buying a new vehicle
- purchase of a hybrid vehicle, if possible
- use of alternative fuels wherever possible (natural gas, hydrogen, ethanol, etc.)
- carpooling to work
- reduction in air travel

Ways of passenger and material transportation vary in different countries. (Cairo, Egypt)

3. Reduction in consumption

- purchase of durable goods
- purchase of goods with recyclable packaging, minimisation of packaging
- diligent recycling of product wherever possible
- save paper
- grocery shopping with reusable bags
- composting of household organic waste
- use of a refillable water bottle for carrying beverages to school or on trips
- modification of the diet to include less meat
- purchase of local (regionally made products)

Machu Picchu – Native Americans cultivate their fields in a terraced manner. Each piece of land, although very steep one, is maximally used. (Peru)