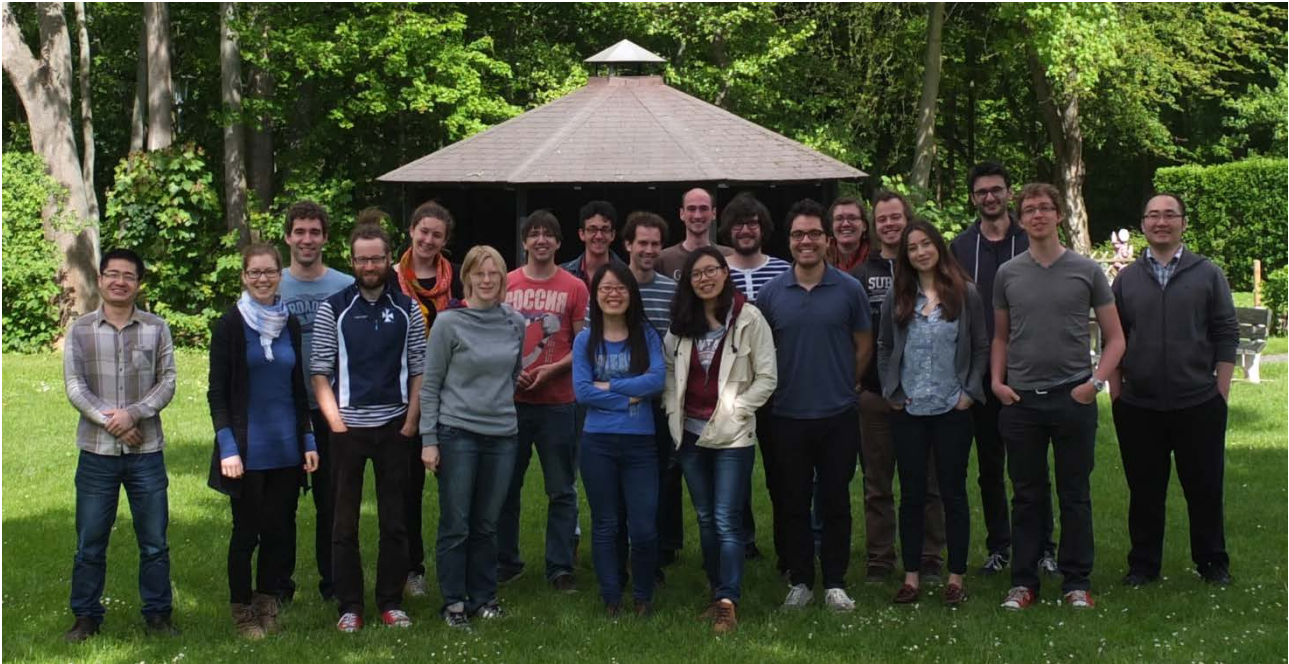


## HITEC Retreat 2014

A seminar held for and planned by young scientist from Forschungszentrum Jülich and Bergische Universität Wuppertal

In the framework of the HITEC graduate school a small conference is designated to bring emerging scientist from various fields together all discussing aspects of energy and climate research. The goal is the organisation of the event itself and exchanging information about their own and their institute's work in talks and discussions. The Retreat in May 2014 took place in a youth hostel in Göttingen with 20 young researcher in their second and third PhD year.



Göttingen was chosen as the venue, besides being an old city with rich history and well-known university, for its vicinity to the energy village Jühnde, the excursion destination of the retreat. It is an example for the integration of renewable energies into the very homes of the village. With the help of surrounding fields and forests, biomass is used for heating directly 70% of the households and producing twice as much electricity as the village consumes. This is done by fermenting different types of grain with manure to use the resulting natural gas in a combined block heat and power plant. As mobility is an important issue in rural areas, the use of electricity is expanded to power shared electric cars for short distances. The goal is to push decentralised concepts for heating, power and mobility and therefore provide a positive example and help other communities with know-how to follow this idea.

The seminar portion of the retreat provided a very broad overview of the activities happening in the energy and climate institutes of Forschungszentrum Jülich and at Bergische Universität Wuppertal. The talks explained the concepts of energy production, technology evaluation and current research, building the heart of the German „Energiewende“. Also the problem of nuclear waste storage and processing was presented in detail, as it is an important part of Germany's decision to stop using nuclear energy. The impacts of the „Energiewende“ on the atmosphere and the earth's climate were also discussed.

Every group presentation was followed by vivid discussions that carried on into the socializing evening events.