

T17cP20 / Energy Decentralization

Topic : T17c / Sectorial Policy - Environment

Chair : Magali Dreyfus (CNRS)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

The energy issue is a transversal topic which crosscuts several public policy fields and addresses several challenges (e.g. climate change, energy security, economic development, social inequalities). Taking action in this sector is therefore a priority for central governments for domestic reasons but also to tackle global challenges and build sustainable futures. In particular, the energy sector entails opportunities for climate co-benefits through the development of renewable energies, improvement of energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse-gases emissions.

Yet, policy-makers and the scientific community have early recognised the role of local governments, and in particular cities, in the development of sustainable environmental policies and climate governance.

Traditional centralised energy systems seem outdated and a decentralized, new model of governance seems, for many actors, more adequate. In fact, scholars have shown that energy transition cannot be based only on a technical shift. Therefore a redistribution of powers and competencies across scales, as well as new patterns of intergovernmental relations, are keys to the efficiency of low-carbon policies.

Depending on the domestic institutional context, local governments may have important competencies in energy production and/or supply, planning and energy demand management. The aim of this panel is to examine experiences of decentralization in the energy sector or any reforms introduced to foster the phasing out of fossil (or fissile) energy based systems. Potential topics for the panel might include the following (indicative):

- Process and institutional steps which led to the decentralization of an energy “activity” (motivations, legislative steps, territorial levels to strengthen)
- National debates about the new balance of powers to promote between central States and local authorities (is decentralization a common consensual solution?)
- Powers, tools and financial support provided by central governments to local governments to foster low-carbon policies
- Impacts on local governance and environmental outcomes
- Barriers and drivers for local action
- Institutional and legal innovation
- Local autonomy in energy activities

This list is indicative and other pertinent paper proposals may be selected.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The aim of the panel “energy decentralization” is to explore the relations between central and local governments in the energy sector.

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Against this background the panel welcomes papers which address the above issue and in particular contributions presenting institutional reforms triggered at the national level, but also local initiatives or any multi-level action aiming at starting/enhancing an energy transition process.

Paper should, as much as possible, highlight the reasons motivating the transformations, their debates or controversies, their stages (e.g. legal landmarks) and advancement, the degree of involvement of other stakeholders (citizens, businesses...) impacts on citizens and environmental outcomes if available.

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Session 1 Energy multi-level governance: from central governments to local governments

Friday, June 30th 08:15 to 10:15 (Oei Tiong Ham OTH 1 - 1)

Social and institutional innovations for enhancing energy decentralisation and climate change mitigation in developing countries

Dumisani Chirambo (Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus- Senftenberg)

Local autonomy in energy decision-making and management in Ghana

Akosua Baah Kwarteng Amaka-Otchere (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology)

Daniel Inkoom (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and technology)

Collaboration and Reflexivity in Local Energy Governance: Lesson Learned from Seoul City's Case

Youhyun LEE (Ajou University)

Two ways to success - Expansion of renewable energies in the federal states of Germany

Stefan Wurster (The Bavarian School of Public Policy)

Christian Hagemann (Bavarian School of Public Policy)

California's Experience with Decentralized Clean Energy Systems: An Overview of State and Local Policies

Rosmarin Heather (InterAmerican Clean Energy Institute)

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Session 2 Discourses and policy networks, communities and assessment of energy decentralization

Friday, June 30th 10:30 to 12:30 (Oei Tiong Ham OTH 1 - 1)

Centralised or decentralised electricity infrastructure? An analysis of discourses and technological infrastructure dimensions in Germany

Simon Funcke

Chantal Ruppert-Winkel

The Implementation of the German Energy Transition at the Local Level - Challenges, Beliefs and the Emergence of Collaboration Networks

Heike Brugger (University of Konstanz)

Local forms and eco-social functions: community energy models in Canada and New Zealand

Julie MacArthur (University of Auckland)

Christina Hoicka (York University)

Decentralized energy production and community sustainability: How hydro electricity shall contribute to local development

Aki Suwa (Kyoto Women's Univ)

Assessing decentralised electricity systems

Simon Funcke

Dierk Bauknecht

Moritz Vogel

How effective is the HEI-DOE Partnership in Contributing to Climate Change Mitigation and Achievement of SDG #13 Climate Action: Assessment of Affiliated Renewable Energy Center Partnerships

Jocelyn Cuaresma (University of the Philippines-National College of Public Administration and Governance)