Participatory processes for national long-term energy scenario development: Toolkit pre-launch event

International Energy Workshop

26 June 2024, 12:00 – 13:15

Moderator: James.Glynn, CEO & Founder, Energy Modelling Systems Analytics, Ireland

Opening remarks: Asami.Miketa, Head of Energy Planning and Power Sector Transformation, IRENA

Scene-setting presentations: Nadeem.Goussous?Associate Programme Officer, IRENA

Panelists:

- Connor.McGookin, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Simon Fraser University
- Madeleine.McPherson, Assistant Professor, University of Victoria
- Francesco.Lovat, Advisor, Danish Energy Agency
- Nolwazi.Khumalo, Programme Officer, IRENA

Session Objective: The primary objective of this event was to introduce the IRENA Global Network on LTES Participatory Processes Toolkit to an audience of energy planners and energy system modellers. The event highlighted the importance of participatory processes in energy planning and demonstrated the toolkit's utility in fostering effective stakeholder engagement. The event featured case studies and learnings from experts in the scientific community and government planners on developing and implementing collaborative processes and platforms for planning energy scenarios.

Key Takeaways:

- To ensure proper engagment it is vital to contextualize the messaging for different stakeholders. Additionally, an interdisciplinary approach to energy planning that encourages broad participation should be used to ensure robust energy planning.
- It is vital to engage a broad range of stakeholders to ensure that diverse views are used to enrich the energy planning process. Proper stakeholder mapping ought to done to ensure that all groups are adequately engaged.
- Governments have evolved from basic energy planning to integrated energy planning to strategic energy planning as such stakeholder engagement processes should evolve along with evolution of planning and government.

Session Summary

Asami Miketa (IRENA) welcomed participants and presented on participatory process in energy planning. She noted that government planners had identified the importance of participatory processes and had requested IRENA to collect good examples from other countries. She noted that this idea had previously been shared during the IEW conference in Vancouver and scientists expressed their interest in the research. She noted that the Global Network on LTES had a scientific advisory board and have worked closely on the topic. She noted the continuity of the work and invited scientists to engage further with the Global Network on LTES.

Nadeem Goussous (IRENA) introduced the Global Network on LTES an noted the role that the Network plays in enabling member countries and partners to share good practice in energy planning. He noted that the Network works with government planners and engages at the ministerial level and with the scientific community. The Global Network on LTES is collaboratively developing a Participatory Processes toolkit that will be launched soon.

He noted that the Global Network on LTES has engaged over 230 experts and the scientific advisory committee when farming the work on participatory processes. He noted that the Global Network on LTES has a mental model on energy planning that highlights the importance of stakeholder engagement which highlights the importance of participatory processes and collaborative engagement. Participatory processes are a set of activities that ensure proper collaboration between energy planners and stakeholders. He noted that participatory processes help build confidence, identify risks in energy plans, enable the communication of energy plans, increase trust, buy in from stakeholders, broaden perspectives, and identify blind spots in models and scenarios. Further participatory processes allow for knowledge exchange and enable interdisciplinary input into models. Constraints identified include lack of funding, time constraints and issues engaging based on the different political contexts. The publication includes 12 extensive case studies which feature good practice from the different countries. In closing he invited participants to reach out to the team if they were interested in reviewing the publication and invited them to join the Global Network on LTES Scientific Contributors list.

Connor McGookin (Simon Fraser University) noted that he has experience on community-based modelling. He worked at the local authority level and engaged people in the modelling at that level. He noted that he authored a paper on Advancing. Public.Participation.in.Energy.Modelling where he worked with 50 researchers who are stakeholders in modelling and outlined different stages in modelling and participatory processes outlining good practice. The main challenge he found in his research was the mapping of the correct stakeholders when modelling for the long term while ensuring there is diverse representation. The second key challenge he encountered was around involving people in the different technical discussions to ensure model accountability.

Madeleine McPherson (University of Victoria) noted that the University of Victoria is part of Canada's Energy Modelling Hub (EMH) which convenes stakeholders and engages them on the different software used in modelling and models developed. She noted that EMH convenes various working groups to discuss the models and modelling tools used. Additionally, EMH runs regional workshops on specific topics and issues where they engage policy makers and academics. EMH focuses on 3 main principles, transparency, accessibility, and inclusiveness. On transparency, EMH uses open source models, gives tutorials, and uses visualisation to communicate modelling results. On accessibility, EMH places emphasis on meeting stakeholders where they are and ensure that their engagement is contextually appropriate. To ensure inclusiveness, EMH convenes different stakeholders in different regions in Canda based on their interests.

Francesco Lovat (Danish Energy Agency) noted that the Danish Energy Agency (DEA) collaborates with different partner governments and has 24 cooperation agreements in place. He noted that the DEA collaborates with different stakeholders on modelling, energy efficiency and distribution initiatives amongst other lines of work. As part of the cooperation agreement with India, China, Mexico and Colombia, the DEA supports their work on stakeholder engagement in the energy planning process. He highlighted some key challenges which include high staff turnover in government and changes in political agenda- noting that these challenges impact the ongoing participatory processes in energy planning. Finally, he noted that the DEA was currently working collaboratively to develop a technology catalogue for Colombia, which is useful for national energy planning. Additionally, the DEA is part of a scenario development processes with the Chinese colleagues.

Nolwazi Khumalo (IRENA) noted that Eswatini developed their energy master plan over 4 years and shared perspectives from the government angle. She noted that the role of government is to define clear policies and strategies while setting targets. The government leverages on participatory processes as the energy sector is very dynamic and it is vital to have a broad set of opinions. She noted that the energy planning process has evolved from, basic planning to integrated planning to strategic energy planning. Therefore, it is necessary to consult a broad range of stakeholders including technical experts Stakeholder engagement processes evolve along with evolution of planning and government.

How can Participatory Processes be a Conduit for justice?

Connor McGookin (Simon Fraser University) responded that from a procedural justice standpoint participatory processes are vital as part of the energy planning process. Additionally, when it comes to representative justice it is important to include all stakeholders and from a distributive justice standpoint it is important to involve all citizens.

Madeleine McPherson (University of Victoria) emphasized the importance of engaging a broad variety of stakeholders. She noted that EMH has engaged civil society organisations with strong views on energy choices in the modelling process and develop scenarios based on the constraints the groups requested. The previously developed models that reduce the amount of large-scale hydro and nuclear energy projects, and when presenting this they were clear in communicating the constraints used in the scenarios. The wide range of views and varieties of scenarios have enriched national energy planning in Canada.

Francesco Lovat (Danish Energy Agency) noted that the DEA organises workshops with the aim of increasing transparency and collaboration amongst different stakeholders. The workshops helped the DEA understand the different perspectives of stakeholder on the Colombian energy landscape and future and build consensus.

Panel Discussion

Philipp Trotter (University of Wuppertal & University of Oxford) noted that the University of Wuppertal have been studying collaboration in energy planning work. He noted that for participatory processes to be meaningful they ought to be inclusive while adhering to certain

bounds to ensure that the output is used to generate implementable results. He asked whether panellists have experienced the tension between inclusivity and control in the process and how they have navigated this.

Madeleine McPherson (University of Victoria) agreed with the sentiments on the tension between inclusivity and control. She noted that EMH previously put out an open call for working groups but included stipulations that all modelling teams had to use data from a common database and send their results at least 2 weeks before the EMH annual forum so that EMH can put them in a common framework. As a result of these stipulations, 2 modelling teams dropped out as they did not have the requisite capacity. This resulted in 7 modelling teams taking part in the working group, which reduced the number of participants but ensured that all the submissions were in a similar format and therefore useful for discussion.

Nolwazi Khumalo (IRENA) stated that in Eswatini the government collaborated with different stakeholders and build from existing models during their national energy planning. She noted the importance of identifying organisations that the government could collaborate with early in the energy planning process.

Mohamed Atouife (Princeton University) noted that most modellers are engineers and sometime do not incorporate the political economy aspects and constraints in models. He asked how training can be conducted to ensure that modellers think wholistically.

Connor McGookin (Simon Fraser University) responded that he is an engineer however he appreciates that it is important to have an interdisciplinary team which also incorporates social scientist. He noted that he was trained in a diverse institute and note the importance of institutional changes and taking an integrated approach to modelling and participation.

Madeleine McPherson (University of Victoria) noted that at the University of Victoria they use an open-source modelling- open-source modelling results to do conduct analyses when tutoring students.

Nolwazi Khumalo (IRENA) noted that IRENA runs a capacity building program, where they form country teams to ensure that various aspects are incorporated into the energy planning process.

Fionn Rogan (University College Cork) asked panellists to share insights on how to engage stakeholders who are not interested in the process.

Nolwazi Khumalo (IRENA) noted that when engaging people in Eswatini the government uses the local language, context specific messages for different stakeholder groups.

Francesco Lovat (Danish Energy Agency) noted that the DEA works with the Ministry of Energy and Planning unts and use interactive indicators to stimulate participation. He noted that the DEA emphasizes the importance of engagement as diverse view are vital to ensure robust energy planning by the government.

Madeleine McPherson (University of Victoria) to ensure easier engagement by stakeholder EMH employs various strategies including funding people to participate in workshops on a need basis. Secondly, to save time the EMH modelling teams travel to the different stakeholders and this save travelling time. Thirdly, EMH builds capacity and ensures that data is presented in an engaging format. As part of their communication strategy EMH uses preliminary conversations to understand the unique needs of the stakeholders and the tailors their engagement to solve the current problems or address the concerns raised.