

Empowering all: Gender in policy and implementation for achieving transitions to sustainable energy

This Task gathers researchers from the fields of gender and energy in a global network to analyse energy policy and technologies from gender perspectives and provide recommendations for policy design and implementation. Our aim is to support the participating countries in their work to design a more efficient and inclusive energy system, and through this also support ongoing efforts to foster energy transitions.

The role of gender in energy systems has been undervalued in the past. Yet, research has shown that norms and practices linked to gender have an impact on the development of policies, user systems and energy technologies, and that this can lead to the implementation of inefficient and excluding energy solutions. One central issue is that, often energy policies and technologies are assumed to be gender neutral when, in fact, they are gender blind. This means that they neglect the differential impacts on genders as well as socio-economic and cultural groups. Consequently, policies and technologies are less effective and may have unintended effects, hindering transitions to more sustainable energy systems.

Social science research on user adaption of energy technologies, including gender research, is often ignored when designing new energy interventions. This new international collaboration sets out to bridge this gap between research and practice. We carry out comparative studies between the participating countries starting from three main questions:

- 1 What “best practices” can we learn from earlier work on gender aware policy and technology interventions?
- 2 What cultural and material barriers exist within today’s energy institutions that hinder the formulation and implementation of inclusive and gender-aware policies and technologies?
- 3 How can we use gender perspectives when designing energy technologies and user solutions to ensure they are inclusive and effective?

In addition, we publish educational materials, design new evaluation methods, and develop models and prototypes for new technology and user support. We also gather data to fill the gaps that exist concerning gender. Through stakeholder workshops with the energy policy and industry communities, we aim to find ways to solve the problems that are identified during the course of the project.

The work is led by Chalmers University in Sweden.



Major achievements during 2022/23

The Task has published several case studies applying gender perspectives to national energy and climate policies, energy consultants, smart grid development and energy entrepreneurship. These case studies were written by National Experts Beatrix Hausner and Azadeh Badieijaryani (Austria), Sylvia Breukers (Netherlands) and Martin Hultman, Kavya Michael, Helene Ahlborg and Oluafan Osunmuyiwa (Sweden).

Australian National Expert Reihana Mohideen and Task Leader Anna Åberg published a White Paper as part of their work with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) to develop **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion standards for digital technology development**.

Dutch National Expert Joy Clancy led the work requested by the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM Committee) of the European Parliament to make a gender impact assessment of the Fit4Fiftyfive Package (the package of legislation proposed by EU Commission to meet the EU's 2030 climate goals). Kavya Michael from Chalmers was a reviewer and Marielle Feenstra contributed as an expert. This work is a part of bringing the results and research of the task to EU policy makers.

National Experts Helene Ahlborg and Kavya Michael contributed to the first report on the results of the **OECD EPIC household survey**, to be published in June 2023.

Through a series of public and internal workshops, Boid AB, Sweden has used norm-creative design to develop a household planner that incorporates perspectives from gender research. Transitioning to sustainable energy use and addressing gender inequality in households requires a focus on responsibility and planning. The proposed household planner is designed to create an inclusive way of planning household contributions to sustainable energy use by focusing on everyday activities and diverse people using electricity as well as making information visible and central in the home.

PARTICIPANTS

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