

IEA WIND ENERGY

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Executive Committee for the
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Research, Development, and Deployment
of Wind Energy Systems of the
International Energy Agency

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Social Acceptance of Wind Energy Projects

1.0 Introduction

The mission of the IEA Wind Implementing Agreement is to stimulate co-operation on wind energy research and development and to provide high quality information and analysis to member governments and commercial sector leaders by addressing technology development and deployment and its benefits, markets, and policy instruments. Within IEA Wind, environmental and societal issues are sometimes referred to as 'soft issues' to differentiate them from technology aspects. However, environmental and societal issues have become pivotal to the deployment of wind energy in many countries. Even where the economics of wind energy are favorable, deployment can only occur when the public and the planning authorities accept the technology. This requires an appreciation of the benefits of wind energy that weigh against any local visual and environmental effects. To address these issues, seven countries participate in IEA Wind Task 27 (Table 1).

2.0 Objectives and Strategy

A first short report on social acceptance was presented to the IEA Wind ExCo at the end of 2007. Specific or partial objectives of this task are to establish an international forum for exchange of knowledge and

experiences related to social acceptance and other societal issues. The work will produce a state-of-the-art report on the knowledge and results so far on social acceptance of wind power installations, including a list of studies and online library of reports and articles. The participants will establish "Best Practices" and tools for policy makers and planners to reduce project risks due to lack of social acceptance, accelerate time of realization of projects, accelerate the exploitation of the full potential of wind energy in the concerned countries, and establish strategies and communication activities to improve or to maintain the image of wind power.

Three different groups of people participate in Task 28. The *Working Group* (1 or 2 people per participating country) represents the main working body of the task. Its members make the essential contributions to the task goals by working out the results of the work packages (Table 2). Members of the *Support Group* (1 or 2 people per participating country) re-views and contributes to the results of the working group by commenting on the proposed reports and suggesting future activities to the working group. Members have yet to be defined. Members of the *Social Acceptance and Wind Energy Community* are the

Country	Contracting Party; Institution(s)
Canada	Natural Resources Canada; University of Québec at Montréal
Finland	TEKES; wpd Finland Oy
Germany	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety; Martin-Luther-University, Otto-von-Guericke-University
Japan	AIST; the University of Tokyo
Norway	Enova SF; Centre for Energy and Society, NTNU
Switzerland	Swiss Federal Office of Energy; ENCO Energie-Consulting AG (OA)
United States	U.S. Department of Energy; NREL

Table 2 Members of Working Group for Task 28	
Canada	University of Québec at Montréal, Department of Political Science
Finland	wpd Finland Oy
Germany	Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Institute for Psychology; Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety; Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg, Institute for Psychology
Japan	The University of Tokyo
Norway	Center for Energy and Society, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies and Culture
Switzerland	Swiss Federal Office of Energy, Wind Department; ENCO Energie-Consulting AG
United States	National Wind Technology Center, NREL

recipients of the task's results, persons to be invited to seminars, and scientists and researchers to be informed about the task activities.

2.1 Overview of anticipated results

The participants have formulated the possible results from the task's activities:

- State-of-the-art report
- Guidelines with a list of best practices (methodology, input data, especially how so-cial acceptance to be considered in project development)
- Translation of the existing knowledge of social scientists into the language of planners and engineers to improve and speed up wind energy planning processes, e.g. how to elicit participation or how to turn affected people into positively involved parties
- Description of successful participation models
- Curricula on social acceptance issues for seminars, training courses, and teaching units for wind power people
- Conference on social acceptance with developers and politicians (in 2-3 years), and perhaps scheduled around an EWEA conference
- Published results of the task in reports and available on a server

- Proceedings from workshops (presentations given at research meetings plus notes of the summary discussions)
- An online library of case study reports generated by the research participants

Due to the expected relevance of the outcomes of this task to the policy makers of the different countries, results on guidelines, new methodologies, strategies, and best practices will be available to all participating countries, even when not directly represented in the task.

2.2 Structure of activities and projects

Based on the Task Proposal, the participants structured the possible activities and projects according to the list in Table 3. The website, the on-line library, and the questionnaire concerning various projects will be ordered in this way.

3.0 Progress in 2008

The Task proposal was approved to move forward by the ExCo at the meeting in April 2008. The proposed Operating Agent is ENCO Energie-Consulting AG Switzerland represented by Robert Horbaty. A first Pre-kick-off Meeting was held in August Bubendorf, Switzerland. Seven countries

Task 28

Table 3 Structure of activities of Task 28	
0 Definition of Social Acceptance - What it is and why we need it.	4 Instruments - Visual impacts - Photomontage - Communication campaigns.
1 National Wind Energy Concepts - National / State incentive programs - Spatial planning, planning aid.	5 Stakeholders - e.g. Utilities - Financial institutions - NGO.
2 Distributional Justice - Burden sharing - Compensation of land use - Compensation of impacts.	6 Well-being - Standard of living - Quality of life - Health.
3 Procedural Design - Communication strategy - Step by step procedure - Participation of locals - Social design process - Siting.	

committed and another five expressed interest. A website has been developed that can be accessed through www.ieawind.org or www.socialacceptance.ch, internal pages are accessed by a password issued by the OA representative.

4.0 Plans for 2009 and Beyond

Task 28 work will officially start in 2009 and will conduct activities for three years— from 2009 through the end of 2011 (Figure 1). The participants discussed the work plan at the pre-kick-off meeting and agreed upon three work packages.

4.1 Work Package 1: State-of-the-art

- Produce a questionnaire for persons and projects
- Make a list for the Kick-off Meeting to state “Wishes” / “Needs” / “Requirements” and specify relevant projects (existing, planned, or open)
- Collect information on researchers and projects in different countries: Who is doing what
- Create a website and an online library

• Write a State-of-the-art Report

- The report should have the same structure as in Table 1, except there will be an Introduction (What it is and why we need it), a detailed Description of Task 28, and Definitions.
- Every chapter should distinguish between “What do we know?” and “What do we want to know?”
- Arrange a 1st workshop with the Support Group
 - Present state-of-the-art report
 - Define open questions
 - Define possible new case studies and research content
 - Evaluate key factors for success and non-success in the siting and micro-siting processes

4.2 Work Package 2: Best practice

- Analyse the various projects
- Analyse case studies to determine which strategy leads to the best results
- Compare and evaluate national and regional policy frameworks

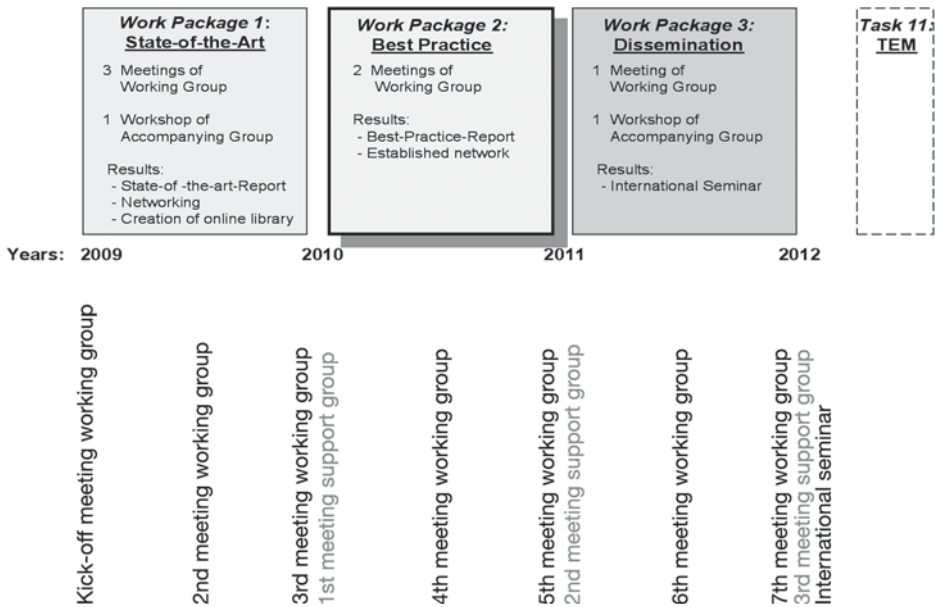


Figure 1 Work plan of Task 28 Social Acceptance of Wind Energy Projects.

- Verify the underlying concept of social acceptance (triangle model)
- Compare and evaluate different participation models (“How to turn affected people into involved parties”)
- Understand and describe the concept of “procedural fairness”
- Describe proposed processes and strategies in the fields of:
 - Stakeholder analysis,
 - Participation processes, and
 - Planning procedures
- Write Best Practice Report
- Arrange a 2nd workshop with the Support Group.

4.3 Work Package 3: Dissemination

- Collect existing material on courses, etc.
- Produce manuals and instructions for planners
- Organize an international seminar or workshop in conjunction with the 3rd workshop of the Support Group.

4.4 Next Meetings

The following dates are proposed for the next meetings:

- Kick-off Meeting: 20–21 March 2009 (Magdeburg, Germany), only Working Group
- 2nd Meeting, Autumn 2009, Tentative dates: 26–27 October 2009 (Boulder, Colorado, United States), only Working Group
- 3rd Meeting, Spring 2010 with EWEA Conference, Tentative dates: 20–23 April 2010 (EWWC 2010 in Warsaw, Poland), Working Group and Support Group.

Reference:

(1) Strategic Plan of IEA R&D Wind, 1 November 2003 – 31 October 2008, www.ieawind.org.

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