



iea wind



IEA WIND ENERGY

# IEA Wind Energy

2009 Annual Report



2009 ANNUAL REPORT



#### 1.0 Introduction

In 2009, many governments and organizations set new targets for CO<sub>2</sub> reductions, renewable energies in general, as well as specific targets for wind energy deployment. Two examples of these targets are the European Union's goal of 20% of electricity from renewables and 20% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by 2010 (1) and the United States scenario of 20% wind contribution to U.S. electricity needs in 2030 (2). All these targets require many single projects to be carried out both onshore and offshore that necessitate hundreds of siting decisions and therefore hundreds of communities accepting a wind project nearby.

Wind projects do have an impact on landscapes, so we have to find ways to

turn affected people into involved parties to get public support. Local visual and environmental effects have to be outweighed by benefits to the communities. Otherwise, social acceptance has the potential to become a powerful barrier for wind deployment.

Research and projects are ongoing in many countries, but we need to look beyond national borders to learn from each other and to complement each other's approaches. While Denmark has one of the longest traditions of co-operatively owned wind farms, Japan may bring its expertise in generating additional benefits for the communities hosting the turbines. While Ireland and Canada know about the effects of wind parks on tourism,

Norway has conducted actual research on communication between society and science, e.g. concerning bird risks with wind farms. In the framework of the IEA Wind Implementing Agreement, Task 28 collects and disseminates the current knowledge on how to increase acceptance of wind energy projects with the aim of facilitating implementation of wind energy and climate targets.

Ten countries have officially committed to Task 28 (Table 1).

#### 2.0 Objectives and Strategy

The objective of IEA Wind Task 28 is to assist countries in reaching their ambitious renewable energy goals and to assist the industry in getting their wind parks built. During the last few decades, knowledge on how to "win hearts and minds" has been built up, but this experience has to be translated into the language of developers, planners, and administrative bodies. This translation of knowledge might help prevent misunderstandings, reduce the time for project development, and therefore minimize project risks.

The work packages and time schedule are illustrated in Figure 1, and the specific or partial objectives of this task are:

**Table 1 Task 28 Participants**

	Country	Contracting Party; Institution(s)
1	Canada	Natural Resources Canada, CANMET Energy Technology Centre; University of Québec at Montréal
2	Denmark	Danish Energy Authority; private consultant
3	Finland	Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation, Energy and Environment Industries (TEKES); wpd Finland oy
4	Germany	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety; Martin-Luther-University; Otto-von-Guericke-University
5	Ireland	Sustainable Energy Ireland
6	Japan	National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology; University of Tokyo
7	Netherlands	Netherlands Agency
8	Norway	Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate; Enova SF; Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Centre for Energy and Society
9	Switzerland	Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications, Swiss Federal Office of Energy; ENCO Energie-Consulting AG, Wind department
10	United States	US Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, National Wind Technology Center

- Establishing an international forum for exchange of knowledge and experiences related to social acceptance and other societal issues of wind energy development. This network is composed of (1) a working group that meets twice each year and (2) support groups organized in each country in the form of national gatherings or conferences. Additionally, workshops at international conferences are getting feedback from the stakeholders (see “4.0 Plans for 2010 and beyond”)
- Composing a “State of the Art Report” on the knowledge and results so far on social acceptance of wind energy projects, including an online library. This library is gathering papers, documentation of various kinds of projects, links, etc. from countries all over the world in their respective languages. The library will be accessible to the public.
- Establishing “Best Practices” and tools for policy makers and planners to reduce project risks and to help realize the full potential of wind energy and of political tasks. Additionally, successful participation and involvement models and a social marketing strategy for wind energy will be developed.
- Establishing strategies and communication activities for disseminating knowledge on how to improve or to maintain the image of wind power. This communication might support

the “debunking of myths” concerning issues such as landscape, health, or impacts on ecosystems.

### 3.0 Progress in 2009

After starting activities in 2008, the working group took up its work in 2009. The following activities were accomplished:

- Kick-off meeting in Magdeburg, Germany (spring 2009): Discussion about work and contents including anticipated results, schedule, structure of activities, participation, and budget. Representatives presented on the current situation and discussions in their respective countries.
- Second meeting in Boulder, United States (autumn 2009): Further development of work and contents, finalization of structure of activities (Figure 2), preparations for State-of-the-Art report; country presentations for mutual update on ongoing activities.
- Second meeting in connection with first national gathering of U.S. experts: around 25 researchers, members of the wind community, and NGOs presented their projects and experiences. The organizational frame also set the possibilities for networking.
- IEA Wind Task 28 introduced additional discussions by web meetings; the first one was held in autumn 2009 with about 10 participants from North America, Europe, and Japan as preparation for the Boulder meeting.

- The web site [www.socialacceptance.ch](http://www.socialacceptance.ch) was expanded and regularly updated. A web database including about a hundred documents on the topic of social acceptance of wind energy is now available. All documents are presented with a classification following the structure of IEA Wind Task 28 activities (Figure 2) and an abstract highlighting the value of the content for social acceptance of wind energy projects. Resources come from more than a dozen countries and include documents in English, German, French, Japanese, Dutch, and Finnish, amongst others. While a part of the web site is only available for Task members, public documents are made accessible to the public.
- Work on the State-of-the-Art Report has started with the collection of information by each participating country. A template for country reports was worked out; the country reports will form the basis for the State-of-the-Art Report itself. The Operating Agent gathered additional documents from non-participating countries.
- An abstract for the 2010 European Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition (EWEC) was submitted to present the work of IEA Wind Task 28 during the session “Strategies to increase social acceptance,” and preparations for a side event during the conference were launched (see also “4.0 Plans for 2010 and beyond”).
- Contacts with non-participating countries such as the United Kingdom and Spain were sought by the Operating Agent to promote participation in the task.
- Two progress reports were written for the attention of the IEA Wind Executive Committee (63 and 64).
- A report on the finances of IEA Wind Task 28 was executed.

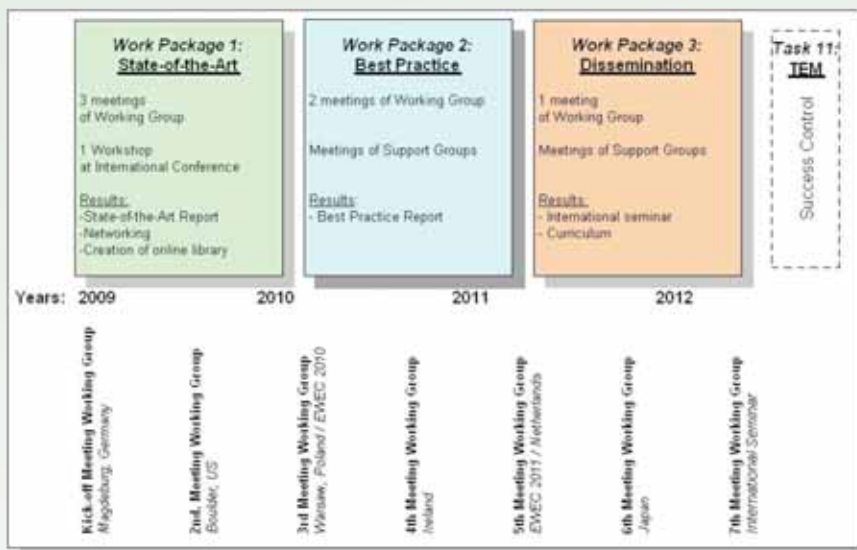


Figure 1 Schedule, work packages, and anticipated results of Task 28

### 4.0 Plans for 2010 and beyond

The end of 2010 should see the publication of the result of Work package 1, the State-of-the-Art Report. The Report will give an overview of actual knowledge on how to boost social acceptance and conclusions on what is still lacking and where IEA countries should invest in further activities. Work package 2 will process the information collected in the State-of-the-Art Report into Best Practices, which will be started in 2010. Work package 3 concentrates on dissemination of the

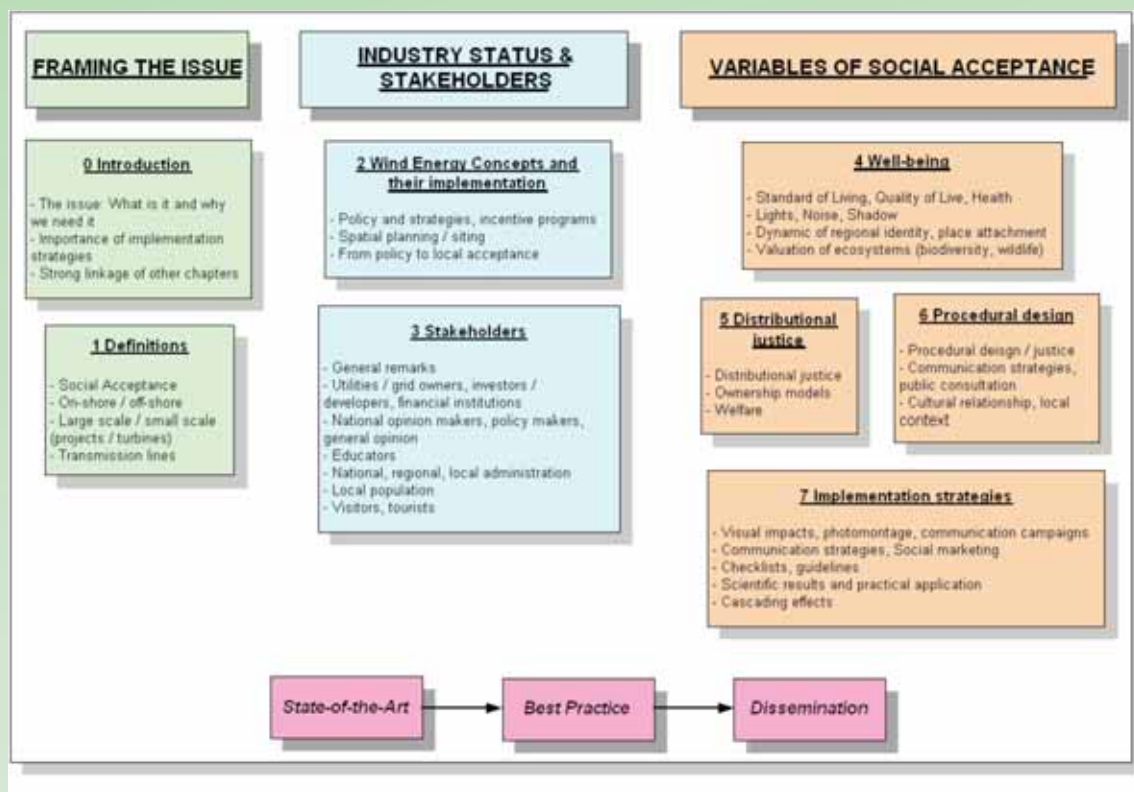


Figure 2 Structure of IEA Wind Task 28 activities

results, and dissemination is already taken into consideration at every meeting. Apart from publications and the website, an international seminar is being considered for 2011 or 2012.

The State-of-the-Art Report is the first step in IEA Wind Task 28 efforts to support the industry and authorities in the implementation of the renewable energy targets. To make this known to a broader public and to get stakeholder input on how this knowledge shall be further processed, IEA Wind Task 28 will be present at EWEC 2010 in Warsaw. Robert Horbaty will participate in the session “Strategies to increase social acceptance” with a presentation on the work of IEA Wind Task 28, and a side event will be held to discuss strategies with the wind industry and the interested public. Further information can be found at [www.social-acceptance.ch](http://www.social-acceptance.ch).

Next meetings are proposed as follows:

- 3rd meeting of working group, spring 2010, in connection with EWEC 2010, in Warsaw, April 19th to 21st
- 4th meeting of working group,

autumn 2010, in Ireland, in connection with an Irish event on Social Acceptance

- 5th meeting of working group, spring 2011, in Amsterdam, eventually in connection with EWEC 2011 in Brussels
- 6th meeting of working group, autumn 2011, in Japan.

*Reference*

Opening photos; <http://www.juwi.de/typo3temp/pics/6bdf940e55.jpg>  
[http://i.treehugger.com/wind\\_powered\\_kid.jpg](http://i.treehugger.com/wind_powered_kid.jpg)  
<http://betterplan.squarespace.com/storage/kids.jpg>

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European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, 20 20 by 2020 – Europe’s climate change opportunity. COM(2008) 30 final. Download from [http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_barroso/president/pdf/COM2008\\_030\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/president/pdf/COM2008_030_en.pdf)

(2) U.S. Department of Energy 20% Wind Energy by 2030 Report. Download from [www.20percentwind.org](http://www.20percentwind.org).

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