The Energy Transition as a Sustainability Transition: Research, Policy, and Practice

Motivation

Due to changes in the electricity market environment that are caused, e.g., by the envisaged energy transition and disruptive new technologies, it can be assumed that future electricity market objectives differ significantly from today's objectives in various aspects. To bridge this gap and practically conduct the energy transition, management (or governance) tools are required that structure the underlying transition process and show up concrete pathways to attain future electricity market objectives. This also involves the definition of suitable interim objectives along these pathways. Moreover, different pathways need to be weighed against each other in terms of their challenges and opportunities. Hence, it is the aim of this research topic to define possible transition pathways that account for different stakeholder interests, balance them and, thus, are well-suited to sustainably govern the energy transition.

Source: Smart Energy International

Research Question

What are suitable transformation pathways towards a successful energy transition and how can they be governed?

Contact

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Approach

- Structured literature review in the fields of Transition Management and Sustainability Research
- Identify objectives of current and future electricity systems and show the corresponding "gap" that needs to be covered
- Definition of (specific) transformation pathways including, e.g., interim objectives, that are suitable to bridge this gap
- Give an assessment or prioritization of the pathways identified and derive corresponding policy implications
- Starting literature: Loorbach, D. (2010). Transition management for sustainable development: a prescriptive, complexity-based governance framework. Governance, 23(1), 161-183.