

# Chapter 7

## Task 28 Social Acceptance of Wind Energy Projects



### 1.0 Introduction

The need for development of renewable energy production is increasingly recognized by various stakeholders. Many promoters of wind energy and other renewable energy projects have realized that

the issue of acceptance of these facilities in institutions, environmental organizations, market actors, and local communities is crucial to the development of wind energy in countries worldwide. The local communities play an especially important

role as people will have to accept energy production facilities in their vicinity to a much larger extent than before.

Wind turbines are seen as a green and clean energy source, but they do impact the lives of the people living with them

**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 Nagoya
7	Netherlands	Agentschap NL, NL Energy and Climate
8	Norway	Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate; Enova SF; Norwegian University of Science and Technology,
9	Switzerland	Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications, Swiss Federal Office of Energy; ENCO Energie-Consulting AG,
10	United States	U.S. Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory Wind Technology Center

(see opening photos). To avoid conflicts, for example, lighting at night for security reasons has to be optimized, and impacts on the local ecosystem, such as on birds, has to be minimized. A further implication of wind energy and its geographical incidence is the necessity to build transmission lines which in some countries can provoke more opposition than the turbines themselves!

Research and projects about social acceptance 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. 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 support 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 the results mostly from social sciences have 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 objectives of this task are as follows.

- Establish an international forum to exchange knowledge and experiences related to social acceptance and other societal issues of wind energy development. This network is composed of a working group that meets twice each year and support groups organized in each country in the form of national gatherings or conferences (see 3.0 Progress in 2010 and 4.0 Plans for 2011 and beyond). Additionally, workshops at international conferences are used to gather feedback from the stakeholders.
- Compose a State-of-the-Art Report on the knowledge and results so far on social acceptance of wind energy projects. This report was published in 2010 (1). An online library, accessible to the public, complements this report. It gathers papers, documentation of various kinds of projects, links, etc. from countries all over the world in their respective languages. The State-of-the-Art Report and the online library are available on [www.socialacceptance.ch](http://www.socialacceptance.ch)
- Establish Good 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.

- Establish 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 2010

The working group focused on the State-of-the-Art Report and an exchange with national expert groups in 2010. First steps into the development of Good Practices were made as well.

- Third meeting in Warsaw, Poland (spring 2010): Further development of work and contents. Discussion of online library and content of State-of-the-Art report. Discussion of possible dissemination activities and reflections on possible presentation of Good Practices. Representatives presented on the current situation and discussions in their respective countries.
- Third meeting in connection with side event and presentation at EWEC 2010 in Warsaw, Poland: Presentation of Task 28 and its work on State-of-the-Art in an official Acceptance session of EWEC 2010. Organization of a Task 28 side event and discussion with the interested public.
- Fourth meeting in Dublin, Ireland (autumn 2010): Further development of work and contents, finalization of State-of-the-Art Report, first attempts on Good Practices recommendations. Representatives presented on the current situation and discussions in their respective countries.
- Fourth meeting in connection with the first national gathering of Irish experts: around 40 researchers, grid operators, wind planners, NGOs and further actors presented and discussed social acceptance of wind energy in Ireland with the working group members of Task 28 present.
- IEA Wind Task 28 introduced additional discussions by web meetings as a preparation for the meeting and

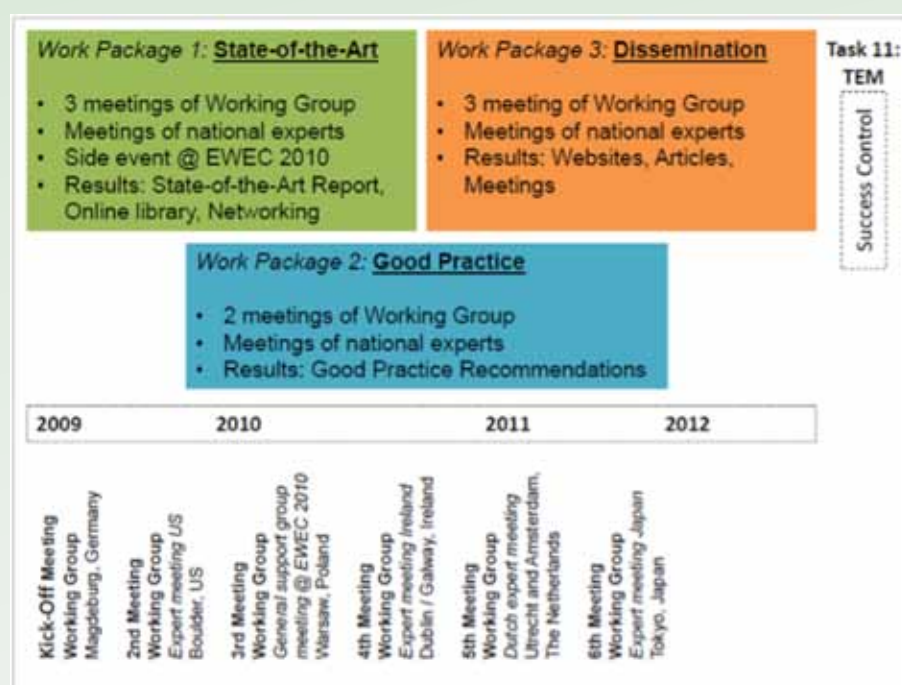


Figure 1 Schedule, work packages, and anticipated results of Task 28

an update for the working group members. In 2010, three web meetings were held (in February, June, and September) with about five to ten participants.

- The working group was regularly updated by email on Task 28 issues and on interesting projects in participating countries by presentations at the working group meetings.

- The web site [www.socialacceptance.ch](http://www.socialacceptance.ch) was expanded and is regularly updated. A web database including about 150 documents on the topic of social acceptance of wind energy is now available. The presentations given by the working group members at various conferences as well as the agenda and presentations from the national expert meetings are available on the website. A contact form was implemented on the web site for interested stakeholders to get in touch with national representatives in Task 28.

- The State-of-the-Art Report was finished (Figure 2). The report contains an overview of relevant knowledge and projects on social acceptance from participating as well as non-participating countries. The report also contains an introduction to the issue of social acceptance of wind energy projects and conclusions on what we know today and what has yet to be done.

- Nine country reports from participating countries have been published in connection with the State-of-the-Art Report on [www.socialacceptance.ch](http://www.socialacceptance.ch).

- An abstract for the 2011 European Wind Energy Association Annual Event in Brussels was submitted to present the work of IEA Wind Task 28 during the session “Siting challenges” and preparations for participation at the IEA side event during the conference were launched.

- As part of the dissemination activities, the Operating Agent and the Swiss representative began an article about Task 28 for a stakeholder bulletin, linking Swiss and Task 28 experience and presenting Good Practices to the Swiss wind energy actors.

- Contacts with non-participating countries such as the United Kingdom and Australia 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 (65 and 66). The Operating Agent participated in one Executive Committee meeting.

#### 4.0 Plans for 2011 and beyond

Work Package 1, State-of-the-Art, will be followed by the publication and dissemination of the Report and the corresponding country reports. In 2011, the working group will concentrate on the formulation of Good Practice recommendations (Work Package 2, Good Practice). They will also explore effective ways to disseminate the results. (Work Package 3, Dissemination), e.g. papers or presentations of the Operating Agent and working

group members. In 2011, the Dutch and Japanese working group members will organize further national gatherings of social acceptance experts in connection with working group meetings.

Participants will discuss continuation of the task at the working group meetings, based on feedback also from the ExCo and taking into account social acceptance issues in other, so far non-participating, countries.

#### References:

(1) State-of-the-Art Report on Social Acceptance of Wind Energy, (2010) Task 28 report, [http://www.socialacceptance.ch/images/IEA\\_Wind\\_Task\\_28\\_technical\\_report\\_final\\_20110208.pdf](http://www.socialacceptance.ch/images/IEA_Wind_Task_28_technical_report_final_20110208.pdf)

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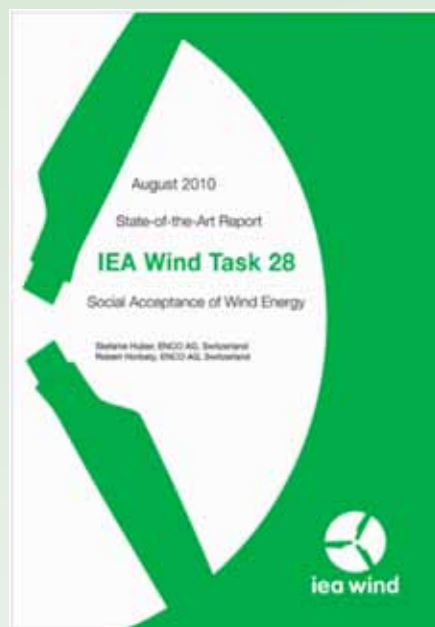


Figure 2 Task 28 State-of-the-Art Report on Social Acceptance of Wind Energy

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