



8 Task 28

Social Acceptance of Wind Energy Projects

1.0 Introduction

Wind power in some countries is realizing its potential and contributing to the renewable energy targets set by governments in previous years. With wind power growing in contribution to the national energy statistics, knowledge based on long-term wind power deployment is accumulating; project developers are involving local stakeholders, local and regional authorities are taking an active role in the development of the renewable energy sources, planning experts are preparing the basis for renewable energy production by setting the ground rules, etc. The opening photos illustrate workshops addressing social acceptance of wind energy development in Denmark, Germany, and the Netherlands. These and other success stories provide approaches that have proven valuable.

However, the good stories may not reach a broad audience, while some of the bad examples receive widespread coverage. This is where IEA Wind Task 28 comes in: Set up as an interdisciplinary and

trans-national working group, practitioners and researchers share their knowledge and experience so that participating countries benefit from successful strategies and innovative ideas. Then by publishing state-of-the-art reports and recommended practices the entire wind community can benefit from the work of the participants.

Early in 2012, the first phase of the task (2008–2011) was completed with the publication of the Final Report (1). Then in June, a Topical Expert Meeting in Switzerland was organized with IEA Wind Task 11. Experts from 13 countries discussed results of IEA Wind Task 28 (2008–2011) and collected ideas and needs for the second phase 2012–2015. This will enable Task 28 working group members to exchange experiences of social acceptance, review current research, define research gaps, and identify possible synergies between participating institutions. The working group members will also develop inputs to IEA Wind, e.g. on topics such as measurement and monitoring of social acceptance or dissemination of good

practices. The extension proposal prepared by the working group for the phase 2012–2015 was approved at the IEA Wind ExCo meeting in autumn 2012 (2). Table 1 gives an overview on current participation.

2.0 Objectives and Strategy

IEA Wind Task 28 will support participating countries by

- Providing up to date information on social acceptance of wind energy in each of the participating countries
- Identifying and documenting successful policy strategies anticipated to be applicable across local contexts
- Enabling sharing of practical information, learning from each other, complementing each other's approaches
- Discussion of the complex issues around social acceptance and gaining additional insights from the broad trans-national and interdisciplinary experience of the network in Task 28
- Working together on open issues and

- research gaps, including opportunities for joint research

 - Enlarging the network and knowledge on good practice of institutions, organizations, experts and practitioners, and
 - Providing reports, publications and presentations in the language of planners, developers, authorities and other stakeholders outside the research community who need to be sensitized on the issue to develop good projects.
- The intended means to provide these inputs are:

 - Working group meetings, national expert meetings, Topical Expert Meeting
 - Good Practice Recommendations and other publications
 - Reports to IEA Wind ExCo, annual reports
- Participation in conferences, e.g. the annual EWEA conference
 - Articles in industry journals and branch magazines, and the
 - Task 28 website homepage.

Task 28 will focus on an issue at each meeting to give more detailed recommendations. The main areas of the future work of Task 28 proposed for the next period are summarized as:

 - Measurement, monitoring, or assessment of social acceptance respectively quantification and valuation of the phenomenon of social acceptance and the impacts when it has not been sought
 - Documentation of existing policies and standards that have been demonstrated to increase social acceptance, including evaluation of checklists and guidelines as

- well as their use, taking into account the whole life-cycle of wind turbines
- Discussion of current and new issues influencing social acceptance that are being debated in the participating countries, stressing of research gaps and discovering of opportunities for joint research, e.g. (far) off-shore, repowering, electricity grid expansion due to wind energy production
 - Deduction, documentation, and dissemination of the lessons learned, good practices, successful strategies, etc. with the aim of improving projects and their implementation and to support the definition of the common understanding of “sustainable, acceptable projects”
 - The role of neutral intermediaries, management of controversial projects, “guichet unique” for developers or public authorities.

The contact and exchange with further projects in the area of social acceptance of renewable energies will also be sought.

3.0 Progress in 2012

The highlight of IEA Wind Task 28 in 2012 was the Topical Expert Meeting (3) that took place in Biel, Switzerland. It united experts from 13 countries for a two-day meeting, followed by a one-day Task 28 working group meeting. It also included a half-day meeting with Swiss practitioners that were invited in close cooperation with the Swiss wind branch organization “Suisse Eole.” The target audience for this workshop included IEA Wind Task 28 working group members and national experts from its network; researchers, experts, and practitioners from IEA Wind countries; and countries interested in participation in the second phase of IEA Wind Task 28.

The Topical Expert Meeting on Social Acceptance in 2012 provided feedback on the success of the first phase. The results and the final report of IEA Wind Task 28 stimulated discussion of issues and targets for the second phase. The meeting provided the Task 28 working group and participants from countries in Task 11 new insights from the presentations of current projects and the discussions.

The Final Report of Task 28, phase 2008–2011 was published in 2012 (1). The report summarizes the work of the group, the results of the discussions, and recommendations for further work. It also describes the network established by the Task 28 activities, e.g. by the national expert meetings, and the dissemination activities established.

The extension proposal for continuation of Task 28 in 2012–2015 (2) was approved

Table 1. Countries Participating in Task 28				
	Country	Institution(s)	2008–2011	2012–2015
1	Canada	Natural Resources Canada, CANMET Energy Technology Centre; University of Québec at Montréal	x	-
2	Denmark	Danish Energy Authority; Ministry of Climate and Energy	x	-
3	Finland	Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation, Energy and Environment Industries (TEKES); wpd Finland Oy	x	-
4	Germany	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety; Martin Luther University; University Saarbrücken	x	x
5	Ireland	Sustainable Energy Authority; Queen's University Belfast	x	x
6	Italy	ENEA Agenzia nazionale per le nuove tecnologie, l'energia e lo sviluppo economico sostenibile; RSE Ricerca Sistema Energetico	-	x
7	Japan	National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology; Nagoya University	x	x
8	Norway	Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate; Enova SF; Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Centre for Energy and Society	x	-
9	Switzerland	Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications, Swiss Federal Office of Energy; ENCO Energie Consulting AG,	x	x
10	The Netherlands	Agentschap NL, NL Energy and Climate	x	-
11	United States	U.S. Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory Wind Technology Center; Lawrence Berkeley Lab	x	x

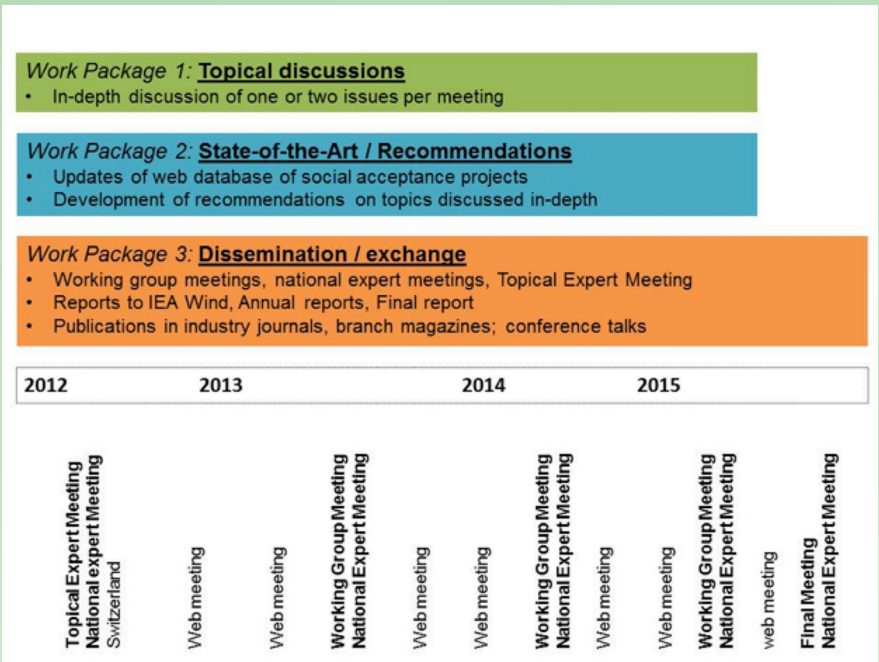


Figure 1. Work packages and timeline for IEA Wind Task 28 (2012–2015)

by the ExCo late in 2012. Exchange with continuing countries continues, while talks with possible new participants are ongoing. Canada and Finland will not participate in the Task 28 second phase; however, Italy has joined and contacts have been established with Australia, Austria, and Sweden.

IEA Wind Task 28 has been working to develop IEA Wind Recommended Practices on the issue of social acceptance of wind energy projects. The Recommended Practices will be published in 2013 and will be available on the IEA Wind website (www.ieawind.org).

Dissemination activities in 2012 also included:

- Publication of the peer-reviewed article in *WIREs Energy and Environment* (3)
- Collaboration for the publication,

Learning from Wind Power: Governance and Societal Perspectives on Sustainable Energy (4), edited by amongst others Geraint Ellis, working group member of IEA Wind Task 28.

- Participation at the workshop “wind parks for all—increasing social acceptance by citizen involvement” at the Third Forum in St. Gallen, Switzerland, on Management of Renewable Energies (5).

4.0 Plans for 2013 and beyond

In 2013, the working group will focus on the issue of monitoring and quantifying social acceptance. There will be several web

meetings and at least one working group meeting. The first meeting is planned for Japan, in connection with a national expert meeting. In parallel, insights from the task work of the last year will be disseminated in the participating countries by the working group members in their teaching or implementation work or by various kinds of publications. IEA Wind Recommended Practice 14. Social Acceptance of Wind Energy Projects, 1. Edition 2013 will be published and widely distributed.

References:

Opening photos show workshops on wind power in the Netherlands (Agentschap NL), Denmark (Wind Turbine Secretariat) and Germany (fig-upsy, Energiepark-Druiberg).

(1) Horbaty and Huber. (2012). Final Report of IEA Wind Task 28 2008–2011, available on www.socialacceptance.ch

(2) Horbaty, Huber, Lantz, et al. (2012). Extension proposal for IEA Wind Task 28 2012–2015

(3) Horbaty, Huber, Ellis. (2012). “Large-scale wind deployment, social acceptance.” *WIREs Energy Environ.* 2012, 1: 194–205 doi: 10.1002/wene.9

(4) Szarka, Cowell, Ellis, Strachan, Warren (ed.). (2012). *Learning from Wind Power: Governance and Societal Perspectives on Sustainable Energy*. Palgrave Macmillan

(5) www.iwoe.unisg.ch/LehrstuhlManagementEE/StGallerForum/Rueckblick+2012.aspx

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Figure 2. Participants of the Topical Expert Meeting on Social Acceptance of Wind Energy Projects in Switzerland