Future Energy Policy: how to make change happen?

Overview

The restructuring of the Swiss energy supply constitutes a major driver for renewable energy projects. Increasing the share of renewable energy is regarded as indispensable for solving the energy supply problem. In order to make change happen, projects and innovative policy instruments have to be accepted in the political arena as well as by the population.

Background

The starting point of the project is the assumption that effective policy change needs to be realized through projects at the regional or local level. However many proposed projects fail on the local level because they do not gain the support of the local citizens or the political elite.

Aim and Methods

The project focuses on three main areas:

I. Illustration of the evolution and challenges to be faced when introducing renewable electricity alternatives in Switzerland.
   I. Inventory of successful and failed projects
   II. Inventory of policy mixes on the cantonal level

II. Examination of the acceptance and preferences for policies among the political elite and relevant market players on the cantonal level.
   I. Comparative policy analysis
   II. Network analysis

III. Study of citizens’ acceptance and behavior concerning renewable energy projects, as well as other context factors on the individual level.
   I. Experimental survey

Renewables taken into account

- PV
- Geothermal Energy
- Wind Energy
- Small-Scale Water Energy

Partners and Collaboration

Scientific experts
- Maya Jegen, Université du Québec à Montréal
- Bernhard Truffer, EAWAG
- Andreas Diekmann, ETH Zurich
- Maarten Wolsink, University of Amsterdam
- Markus Duscha, IFEU

Stakeholders
- Markus Portmann, AEE Suisse
- Stefan Vollenweider, Wasser-Agenda 21
- Guido Scheiber, Canton of Uri, Office for Energy
- Moritz Steiner, Canton of Valais, Office for Water and Energy

Energy Turnaround

I. Insights into the efficiency, effectiveness and acceptance of past, existing, new and even potential future instrument mixes for renewable electricity promotion.

II. Facilitation of complex but structured policy recommendations in order to enhance acceptance, overcoming the conflict between promotion of renewables and environmental protection.

III. Impact of acceptance on implementation of new policy instruments for the promotion of renewable electricity.

Contact

Prof. Dr. Isabelle Stadelmann-Steffen
Institute for Political Science,
University of Bern
isabelle.stadelmann@ipw.unibe.ch

Prof. Dr. Karin Ingold
Institute for Political Science,
University of Bern & EAWAG
karin.ingold@ipw.unibe.ch

Prof. Dr. Philippe Thalmann
Laboratoire d'économie urbaine et de renouvellement, EPFL Lausanne
philippe.thalmann@epfl.ch

Researchers
Dr. Stefan Rieder, Interface Politikstudien Luzern
Lorenz Kammermann, PhD cand., University of Bern & EAWAG
Clau Dermont, PhD cand., University of Bern