

A Socio-technical Perspective of Energy Models and Scenarios

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Energy systems, which experts project through their models, appear hardly sustainable in the long-term. Every proposed mix of energy vectors and technologies has benefits as well as drawbacks. Furthermore, it is impossible in economic terms to reconcile basic criteria such as economic development, security of providing energy services, environmental protection and climate change mitigation into an universally acceptable ranking. Waiting for breakthroughs, which might open the technological path towards sustainability, social paths have to be undertaken.

The presentation will discuss what analysts should derive from their systems analyses, in order open a dialogue with the public at large, making use of some public participation methods developed so far by social scientists.

Keywords:

energy–environment scenarios, technical–economic models, long–term, public participation methods, social sciences