

Social acceptability of climate change policies

Jacky Pett

eceee summer study 2007

Paper 1,003



Pett Projects

sustainable energy and buildings
research

Outline

- Part 1: the research agenda
 - Integrated assessment research
 - Governance issues
 - Stakeholder involvement
- Part 2: the electricity sector dialectic
 - Issues of debate
 - The energy efficiency 'voice'



Tyndall Centre
for Climate Change Research

ADaptation And Mitigation strategies post 2012

Supporting EU policy development in the next stage of the Kyoto Protocol and informing new adaptation strategies for Europe

Tasks

- Examine:
 - trade-offs and conflicts between adaptation and mitigation policies
 - extent to which policy trajectories will deliver Europe's commitments
- co-develop with stakeholders portfolios of policy options
- Develop **Policy Appraisal Framework (PAF)** to engage policy communities and explore the effectiveness of different policy options

adam

Policy Appraisal Framework (PAF)



adam

- An integrated assessment tool (resource) that might become as common in use as Cost Benefit Analysis
 - Participatory methods
 - Modelling
 - (Traditional) Policy analysis
- Enable policy makers (and others) to evaluate options
 - e.g. to determine the social acceptability or political feasibility of a policy/portfolio of policies



ADaptation And Mitigation (ADAM)
strategies for climate change is
funded by the EU under FP6

Social acceptability....

- Post-normative society (Hajer & Wagenaar, 2003),
 - in order that governance can take place, all segments of society have a role to play in both setting and deriving policy
 - the *normative structure* of government setting the rules and society obeying them is not enforceable, especially with respect to environmental policy (Vogler & Jordan, 2003)
 - shift in power from simple national governance means that transnational actors - corporations, campaigning and charitable NGOs, quasi governmental organisations such as UNEP - all exercise power through their influence on governments (Risse, 1995)
- Search for policies that will be implementable – how to measure/assess social acceptability

Participation strategies

- Information
 - providing participants with information to make them aware of scientific findings and policy plans
- Consultation
 - gauging opinions on policy problems, options and strategies
- Active involvement
 - in-depth interaction and deliberation amongst participants about policy problems, options and strategies

Mapping energy actors

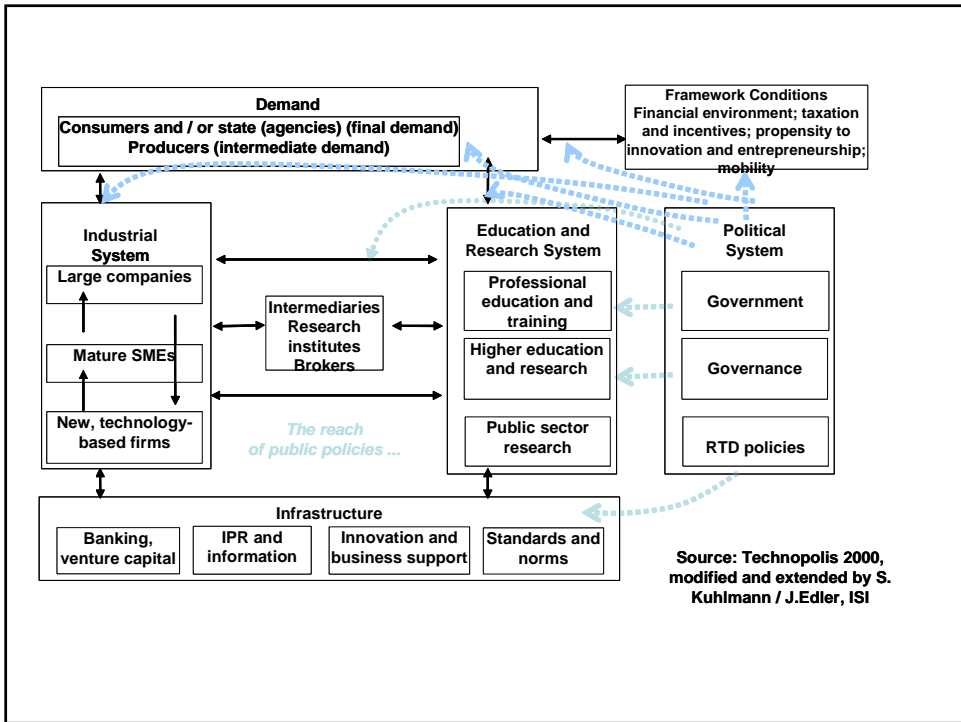
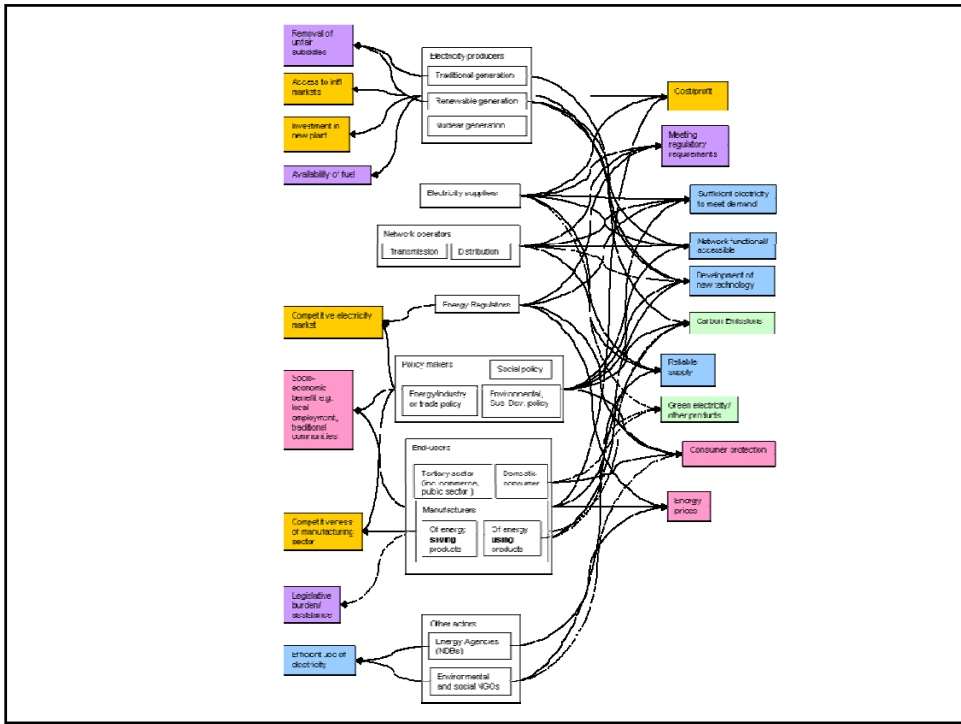
- Mapping the actors and their issues of interest
 - Who are the players
 - Which issues are of shared interest (common ground, opposing positions)
- Research on electricity companies as trans-national actors
 - Governance structures, influence, 'non-state actors'

Dialectic (issues of debate)

- **Technology** - Development of new vs. use available
- Supply side vs. Demand side
- **Direct reduction of CO2 emissions vs. Energy efficiency**
- CO2 reductions - Cost effective vs. Sustainable
- **Consumer Protection** vs. No societal concern
- Business threat vs. Business opportunity
- **Energy mix** - Diverse vs. Constrained
- Environmental footprint of products vs. No concern over environmental claims
- **Electricity market** - Competitive regulated EU vs. Global unregulated
- Socio-economic benefit vs. No concern for community
- **Competitiveness** of manufacturing sector vs. Market decides
- Access to international markets vs. European market
- **Availability of fuel** within EU vs. Import dependence
- Government control vs. Not controlled

Consultation vs Deliberation

- Lobbying and consultation on energy efficiency green paper – adoption into policy
- Dialectic from the COOL project
- Concerns of the electricity sector – power as trans-national actors
- Effectiveness of the energy efficiency actors
- Selection of stakeholders for deliberative exercises



Conclusions

- Consultation produces information overload but mapping perspectives shows much common ground
 - supply-demand side rift may be illusory
- More socially acceptable policy needs new methods of agreeing criteria
 - if criteria are agreed through deliberation, far more radical moves might be acceptable
- Energy efficiency actors are not currently disadvantaged in the process
 - deliberation process could identify the agreed constructs, points of contention and establish clear criteria for policy assessment
- Stakeholder selection is the dangerous area

Q: will energy efficiency always fail to win its case through the consultation process?

A: it hasn't, but it might!

pett.projects@btinternet.com

www.pett-projects.org.uk

+44 1603 879890