

Institutional Analysis and Energy Transitions

Arho Toikka, University of Helsinki, arho.toikka@helsinki.fi & Matti Kojo, University of Tampere, matti.kojo@uta.fi

The workgroup focuses on the analysis of institutions and systems of institutions and how they enable or constrain transitions to more sustainable energy regimes. Institutions are the formal and informal rules that humans use in everyday activities and long-term decision-making to make interaction more predictable. The workgroup welcomes theoretical and empirical contributions from any institutional perspective, including economics, political science, governance, and legal analyses.

Technologies rise and fall with the institutional scaffolding provided by a multitude of institutions. The idea is to build an understanding of the similarities and difference over multiple governance levels (local, national, international) and different technologies (from coal power with carbon capture and storage and nuclear power to renewables, smart grids and novel energy sources). These rules can be within a domain, like the rules of proper scientific work, or the rules of government-run energy production, or they may be across domains. Can the relatively slow change in the energy sector be explained by rule systems? What are the rules and regulations and strategies that would allow new technologies to come up?