

Project status

In spite of the economic recession there is a growing interest in the area of energy and on sustainable development and, thus, we have seen significant interest in recent results presented from our project. Examples are possibilities with electrification of the transportation sector, such as how plug-in hybrid electric vehicles can act on the control power market which was presented in a recent study. Another important issue is local and regional energy planning.

Below are some examples of activities in focus during the last quarter.

Two new PhD dissertations

First, I am proud that there are two new PhD dissertations from the project. On May 20, Julia Hansson defended her thesis on future bioenergy use in Europe, a highly relevant work considering recent debates on the prospects of bioenergy. On June 9, Mikael Odenberger will present his thesis on pathways for the European electricity supply sector under stringent CO₂ reductions. A significant part of Odenbergers work has been devoted to development of an energy systems model. The work presented in the two theses is very representative for the methodology chosen in the Pathway project, namely that they try to assess the energy system in a detailed way, including how the present energy infrastructure influences the Pathways into the future.

Sustainable Pathways

We have now started the process of formulating Pathways for the entire European energy system up to the year 2050. This is a work that was initiated recently and will continue with the aim to put together a good synthesis from the various works in the Pathway project.

The Path-to-RES project

The Path-to-RES project has held its second workshop in Arnhem in Holland. The project deals with local and regional energy planning and is based on six case studies. The project is carried out in connection to the Pathway project and gives a very different perspective on pathways to sustainable energy system than is obtained from the analysis on the overall European level with models as the ones mentioned above.

Attitudes on CCS

A previous work on stakeholder attitudes on Carbon Capture and Storage has been followed up and the results were compared with those of the previous work. The results are presented in a paper "Stakeholder Attitudes on Carbon Capture and Storage - an international comparison". The results of the follow-up

shows that respondents consider CCS to play an increased role in the national climate debate. For example, in Japan there was a clear trend in that an increased fraction of respondents claimed that their organization has a clear position on CCS compared to the result of the original survey. Thus, this and other information clearly show that CCS is becoming higher and higher up on the agenda. Yet, as shown in modeling work in the project, it is a great challenge for society to implement a CCS infrastructure in a timely manner. The question of timely investments in CCS infrastructure is something we plan to address in more depth in upcoming work on CCS infrastructure, not only for the electricity generation system but also for the heavy industries in Europe.

Conferences and workshops

As during previous periods, results from the project have been presented to different audiences in conferences and workshops. An example is the Swedish Energitinget, the main Swedish energy conference arranged by the Swedish Energy Agency. In the conference, Julia Hansson presented her results from an analysis of the EU goals on 20% renewable energy, 20% CO₂ emission reductions and a 20% increase in energy efficiency.

An internal Pathways workshop on interdisciplinary topics was held on March 3, in Göteborg. The workshop discussed various items related to implementation of technologies and systems such as siting issues with experiences from wind power.

The project follows the plan and I am looking forward to the continued activities during 2009!



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