



Creating an interdisciplinary energy lexicon

Working with terminology differences in support of better energy policy

SHAPEENERGY

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 731264.

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@ShapeEnergyEU



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**Global Sustainability
Institute**



The importance of the words we use

- Lots of jargon exists, in all fields! Can be taken for granted
- Disciplinary differences; expert/non-expert usage; etc
- Can promote dialogue, or can mean researchers “*speak past each other*”*
- Words set the agenda, and frame the problems we seek to address: language is intrinsic to how disciplines “*ask different types of questions as well as seek different types of answers*” *
- The importance/challenges of language have been stated over and over again... but little (that we could find) has looked at how to overcome this practically within collaborative/interdisciplinary settings.

*Dixon, J. and Sharp, L., 2007. Collaborative research in sustainable water management: issues of interdisciplinarity. *Interdiscip. Sci. Rev.*, 32, pp.222



Our aim

- To create a Lexicon, using input from leading energy researchers, exploring a number of key energy-related words and phrases
- To highlight difference, not come up with 'perfect' definitions – this was not to be a (static) project glossary for reference
- Used the eceee paper as a way to research and define our method for developing the lexicon
- But, it now exists! Available right here 😊



Context: SHAPE ENERGY

Social Sciences and Humanities for Advancing Policy in European Energy

www.shapeenergy.eu

Disciplines: Business, Communication Studies, Development, Economics, Education, Environmental Social Science, Gender, History, Human Geography, Law, Philosophy, Planning, Politics, Psychology, Science and Technology Studies, Sociology, Social Anthropology, Social Policy, Theology, and more...

H2020 project, reporting to the Energy Strategy unit of the EC.



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The workshop: Feb 2017, Cambridge

25 leading energy scholars across very wide range of SSH (and some STEM) disciplines, including journal editors, PIs of major energy projects, chairs of energy networks.





Our 8 principles for making a lexicon

#1: Be clear on what exactly you imagine a lexicon to be

#2: Be solutions-focussed

#3: Dedicate time to the lexicon as early as possible

#4: Embrace disciplinary difference

#5: Be participatory and reflexive

#6: Pay attention to tone, as well as content

#7: Acknowledge it can only ever be a 'work-in-progress'

#8: Ensure that the lexicon enables flexible and varied use



Method

1. *Words submitted/selected*
2. *Written exercise (20 mins for 20 words)*
3. *Recorded small discussion groups*
4. *Grouping of key themes – choosing illustrative examples for each*



What words did they choose?

Suggest a key (energy-related) word or phrase which is central to your work...





The results..

Latest news: Donald Trump's mission? To keep the... • Germany needs to start coal...

eceee 2017 Summer Study on energy efficiency
29 May – 3 June • Presqu'île de Giens, Hyères, France

Home About Programme Speakers Venue Partners Registration For authors Summer Study Efficiency Design eceee

Relevant topics for this panel include

- What is the role of energy efficiency in future flexible and integrated energy systems (with integration between production and end-use, different energy carriers, or energy storage)?
- What are the business models for energy efficiency in such future decarbonized energy systems? Is sufficiency relevant in a 100 % renewable energy context?
- How can a long term transition toward a sustainable energy future be induced, and what fundamental shifts (in technology costs, energy prices, national policies) are necessary to promote such a transition?
- What could a sustainable governance structure look like to promote long term innovation and low-carbon transition?
- Does policy evaluation need to be reformed to address long term energy efficiency and transitions toward sustainability? Do we need new approaches, new ways of thinking?
- How can a new discourse be initiated which promotes energy efficiency from different angles?
- Should politicians/policy makers change their communications and messages about policy and measures to promote energy efficiency and tell a good story? Does participation in policy development help transform communication and to what effect?
- Can we highlight good examples for communication and participation in policy development and new channels that help change the discourse? How can good practice examples be transferred and scaled up?

energy efficiency

energy transition

energy policy

energy governance

become a member

contact in Austria, Germany and UK.

Texi billboard
Find someone to share a taxi with to/from the venue

Danfoss

RENOVATE EUROPE

eurima
European Insulation Manufacturers Association

KR foundation

clasp



Energy transition...

energy transition

The process of changing our energy system from recent high fossil one to a low/zero carbon one.

energy transition

long-term structural changes in energy systems

energy transition

a multilevel, multistakeholder, multigenerational and multicontext change process which is hardly manageable top-down but needs also bottom-up and middle-out governance

energy transition

how?

Low carbon

Systems

Societal challenge

Questioning the premise



Energy policy...

... involves written regulation

e.g. "Specific piece of legislation targetted at energy systems."

... links strategic goals

e.g. "Set of societal goals related to energy and measures to achieve them."

... exists at different levels

e.g. "A set of political strategies, regulations/laws that relate to energy ... at a given political scale (national/EU/global)."

... defines the problem

e.g. "The starting point is defining 'problems' and put them into public agenda."



Energy governance...

... involves policy

e.g. "Systems of controlling and overseeing energy services/infrastructure. Political. Government bodies."

... can go beyond policy, or formal rules

e.g. "Decision-making about energy - broader than policy / politics - includes private and third sector and individuals/households."

... is about power and control

e.g. "Power distribution within the energy system with more just distribution."

... is about institutions

e.g. "Institutional and structural framework for energy policy."



Energy efficiency...

... = (energy out) ÷ (energy in)

e.g. "I always think about an equation."

... can be about technology, or behaviour

e.g. "Ways of reducing consumption through technology ... or behaviour."

... means getting the same (or more?) for less

e.g. "Use less energy for getting the best result."

... is relative

... as a solution, raises questions

e.g. "What about rebound effect..."



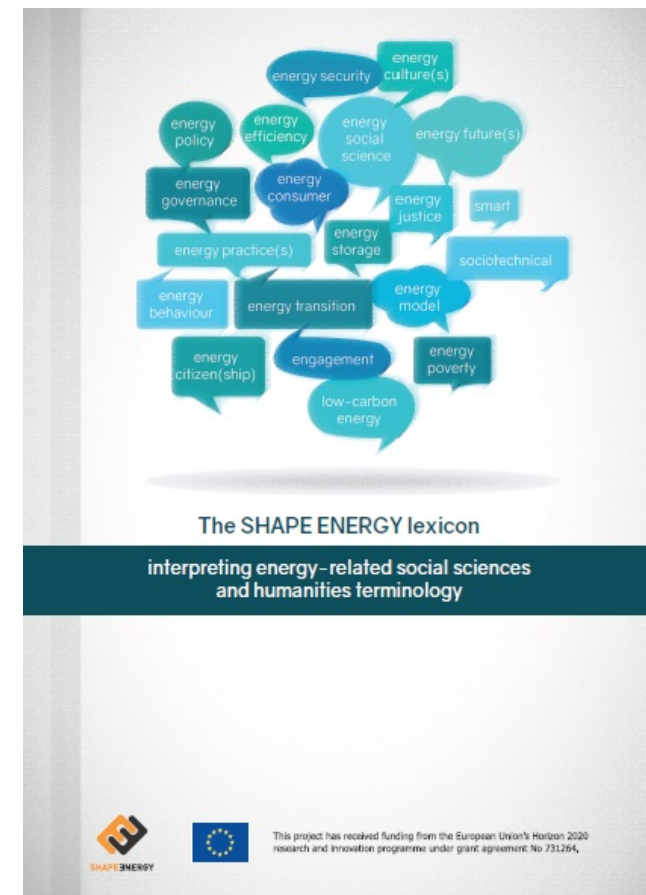
What can this lexicon/method be used for?

- Highlight the different foci/points of departure of different research work, and how different questions may be more top-of-mind
- As a prompt to start conversations
- At the start of projects, to understand different perspectives of others / develop shared vocab
- To remember the 'non-expert' interpretation
- To remind us there is no perfect definition...
- As a quick tool, or an in-depth process



Full draft version available now!

- Do take one, and let us know your feedback (and do the call for evidence?!)
- One-pager also available, or catch us to talk about the SHAPE ENERGY project
- rosie.robison@anglia.ac.uk





SHAPE ENERGY

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES FOR
ADVANCING POLICY IN EUROPEAN ENERGY



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Future opportunities:

- city workshops
- H2020 sandpits
- PhD secondments
- funding for think pieces and research design challenge

SHAPE ENERGY resources:

- Annotated bibliographies
- Energy lexicon
- Cross-cutting theme reports
- Researcher database
- ... *and more*



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POLITECNICO
DI TORINO



Norwegian University of
Science and Technology



ORTA DOĞU TEKNİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ
MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY



Faculty of Management and Economics



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