

Track 2 - The smart energy system transition in cities and regions

Title of the proposed paper

Localized Energy Transitions – The role of decentralized initiatives in the German energy transition

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Text abstract (max. 300 words)

While the traditional form of electricity generation and supply is based on centralized structures with large-scale power plants, the objective of a strongly decentralized form of energy supply is increasingly becoming of importance. In the current existing regulatory and market frameworks in Germany and elsewhere, important technical and institutional innovations for energy transitions were and are being developed, tested and brought to application on regional and local levels. Regions, cities and villages experimenting with socio-technical innovations and aiming to implement new concepts have to develop governance structures under high uncertainty. These governance structures mirror space-specific social, political, technological and economic constellations. The present paper introduces an analytical approach for studying emergent forms of governance and will analyze four projects in detail.