

Just Transition: Cases and learning on inclusion and ambition

Tuesday, 6 July 2021, 9:00-12:30 (CEST) | Webinar

More and more countries, jurisdictions, and companies are now debating, adopting, and implementing climate targets, including net-zero mid-century commitments, and within these specific coal phase out targets and de facto coal reduction targets. The Just Transition is a crucial building block for meeting these targets through the energy transition. Although the circumstances for Just Transition vary in each country, there are many common questions and opportunities to share learning. This workshop will present the up-to-date plans and learning from key case studies of Just Transition in some first mover countries: Germany, Poland, South Africa, the Philippines, and Australia, focusing on cross-cutting insights from these case studies.

The first panel will focus on inclusion. Just Transition has been most intensively debated around the important issue of coal jobs and the economic future of coal communities. However, in addition, there are many other stakeholders, including energy customers large and small, mining companies, electricity generators, renewable energy investors, the companies and the communities involved in the rehabilitation of land and water after coal mining, trade unions, migrant labourers and non-unionised labourers, local government, national government, economic development agencies, skills training organizations, and environmental and social justice NGOs. How can these different groups be consulted and participate in designing and implementing Just Transition?

The second panel will look at ambition. Just Transition is sometimes discussed in terms of start dates and end dates, but it is better understood as meaning undertaking robust planning to maximize economic, social, and environmental opportunities, in order to minimize social disruption. This means a key focus on green economy jobs in clean energy and its supply chain, land and water rehabilitation at mining sites, and support for local workforce re-skilling. It also means focusing on equitable access to affordable energy for the population as a whole. Ambition requires clarity about goals, opportunities, resources, and undertaking early actions—managing the transition rather than postponing it. Therefore, what are the models and questions that can help to shape ambitious and well-managed Just Transition planning?

Both inclusion and ambition are essential to achieving Just Transition. These case studies strongly demonstrate that an inclusive process and ambitious goals can reinforce one another.

The speakers will present the respective contexts and processes of their case studies, and consider which elements of their success in addressing the Just Transition challenge might provide wider lessons and models for other regions.

REGISTRATION

<https://www.agora-energiewende.de/en/events/>

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9:00-9:10	Welcome and introduction (+ Quiz “which country are you from”) Nikola Bock , Head of Events, Agora Energiewende
9:10-9:15	Welcome by Espen Mehlum , Head of Knowledge Management and Integration, Shaping the Future of Energy, Materials and Infrastructure Platform, World Economic Forum
9:15-9:30	Opening remarks by Georgios Gkiaouris , Acting Director, Head Energy Europe, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
9:30-10:50	Inclusion – how can different actors participate in designing and implementing Just Transition? <i>Moderated by Samantha Smith Director, Just Transition Centre, ITUC</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intro by moderator 2. Philipp Litz, Project Lead, Agora Energiewende 3. Cristina Martinez, Asia Pacific Coordinator Green Jobs & Just Transition, UN International Labour Organization 4. Karen Cain, CEO, Latrobe Valley Authority, Australia 5. Julian Popov, former Environment and Climate Minister of Bulgaria, Maritsa Just Transition Center Bulgaria 6. Q&A and conclusion by moderator
10:50-11:00	Short break for stretching and tea/coffee refill
11:00-12:20	Ambition – what factors can help shape ambitious and well-managed Just Transition planning? <i>Moderation Kate James, Senior Policy Advisor, UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)/Powering Past Coal Alliance</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intro by moderator 2. Maciej Sytek, Head of the Regional Development Agency Konin, Poland 3. Juraj Melichar, CEE Bankwatch Network / Friends of the Earth-CEPA 4. Tracy Ledger, Project Manager, Public Affairs Research Institute. South Africa 5. Srestha Banerjee, Director, Just Transition International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (iFOREST), India 6. Q&A and wrap-up by moderator
12:20-12:30	Summary reflections and closure Jesse Scott , Director International Programme, Agora Energiewende