

Energy System Analytical Training: using data analytics for policy recommendation and introduction to energy system modelling

17-19 and 24-26 October 2023 || Bangkok

Agora Energiewende will be hosting a 3-day training programme to designed equip participants to translate energy system data and models into evidence-based policy recommendations. This training is targeted towards early-to-mid career staff who regularly use data as part of their roles.

Background & Purpose

For the energy transition to be successful, policy makers, businesses and wider society need to be well-informed of the opportunities and challenges facing the transformation of their energy systems. As an evidence-based think tank, Agora focuses on providing data-driven analyses that can accurately describe the various elements of the energy system (technical, economic, regulatory, political) and illustrate how they must change to realise ambitious climate targets.

Agora Energiewende will host a 3-day training programme focused on sharing Agora's expertise and experiences in policy-driven energy system analytics. The programme is designed to grow participants skills in using and manipulating data to create impactful insights and visualisations to tell engaging evidence-driven and policy-relevant stories.

For the past 50 years, the use of energy system models to inform policymaking has increased alongside model complexity. Policy-relevant models represent an avenue for learning and communicating about energy systems, in addition to illustrating alternative strategies for meeting specific policy goals. Advocates for energy transitions will no doubt encounter various model results and may even wish to commission their own modelling studies. The training seeks to unlock the black box of energy system models, and to empower participants to engage proactively with energy models going forward.

Objectives

On completion of the 3-day training, participants will be able to:

- Apply best practices on how to access, manage and process energy system data. We will start with a foundational introduction to energy system data and data analysis.
- Produce impactful data analytics and visualisations that tell compelling policy stories and recommendations. This includes learning techniques to tell more compelling stories and with data, graphics and images.
- Critically evaluate energy system model results and confidently engage with energy system modellers. We will not be creating or running any models, but we will learn how to read, understand, and critique energy system models. This includes an introduction to the fundamentals of energy system modelling as well as a comparison of different modelling approaches with a special focus on cost-optimisation.

Methods

The training programme is designed to be a mixture between theoretical lectures, hands-on exercises, group work and inclusive discussions. We strive to create a healthy and safe, informal learning environment, where collaboration is encouraged and where mistakes are celebrated as part of the learning process. Best practices indicate that people learn a lot with and from each other too!

Participants

The training programme is open applicants currently employed by or affiliated with a think-tank, non-governmental or civil society organisation working in the energy transition. The training is targeted towards early-to-mid career professionals, e.g., practitioners regularly working with data or on policy analysis.

As we seek to improve participant's technical skills to expand their institution's analytical, data-driven and evidence-based energy transition advocacy, we ask that participants:

- regularly deal with data as part of their job;
- have a foundational knowledge of energy and power systems; and
- feel confident using excel to transform data and to create graphs and figures.

No coding knowledge is required. Participants are expected to bring a laptop with Microsoft Excel installed.

Location

The 3-day training programme will take place in Bangkok, Thailand. The precise venue will be announced later.

Training dates:

The training will be held on two occasions in October each with 20 participants.

- **17-19 October 2023**
- **24-26 October 2023**

Costs

Participation in the training is free of charge. Participants will receive:

- Access to the 3 days training with no fee
- 3-4 nights' accommodation
- Breakfast and lunches during the trainings

Participants will be expected to cover:

- International and local transport
- Dinners
- Visa costs
- Any incidental expenses outside of the trainings.

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How to apply – Deadline: 14 August 2023

We ask interested participants to prepare their CV and a short (max 600 word) letter of motivation. In the letter of motivation, we ask that you:

- introduce yourself, your institution, and how you currently use data in your current role,
- describe some of the challenges you face when translating data for policy analysis,
- and describe your vision how you would like to engage with and use energy system data analytics to further your institution's mission and objectives.

For any questions, please contact analytics_training@agora-energiewende.de