

Fact-based advocacy for clean energy in Macedonia

Nevena Smilevska,
Center for environmental research and information Eko-svest, Macedonia

nevena@ekosvest.com.mk

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- Reasons why environmental CSOs decided to go into energy modelling;
- Methods we used (one study, one comprehensive energy model);
- Results of both efforts;
- Impacts, communication, consequences.

Reasons for energy modelling

- ▶ Current state in energy sector in Macedonia at beginning of project - leading to inability to reach EU decarbonisation goals until 2050;
- ▶ Plans for new coal-fired TPPs and new lignite mines instead of decarbonisation;
- ▶ Similar situation in nearly all countries of the region which are members of Energy Community - all are heavily coal dependent, thus the regional energy strategy is mostly based on coal;
- ▶ Need for CSOs to step up and create advocacy tools that will enable taking our advocacy beyond protest.

Methods - study

- ▶ Combined data from Energy strategy from 2010 and a feasibility study called “ELEM, FYR MACEDONIA: Technical and economic review of lower carbon alternatives for power capacity increase”
- ▶ Enlisted help of experts to do the modelling (only supply side was modelled)
- ▶ Created 3 scenarios:
- ▶ Scenario A - lower demand, but no efforts for introducing clean energy options
- ▶ Scenario B - demand is the same as in Scenario A, but there is a strong tendency towards reducing carbon emissions, so renewables are much more present in the energy mix
- ▶ Scenario C - demand is static over the entire period, while levels of renewables are the same as in Scenario B

Results - study

- ▶ A renewable future for Macedonia is possible
- ▶ Decarbonisation is possible - even if not until 2050

Methods - model

- ▶ 17 CSOs from SEE
- ▶ Open-source platform
- ▶ Wide consultations with all relevant stakeholders during the process of data gathering and a 6 week period of time for commenting after The Calculator was ready to be released
- ▶ The resulting The Calculator models a range of physical and technical potentials in 10 different sectors and 45 different parameters for each country. It is based on collected scientific and engineering data that was subject to consultations with national, regional and international organizations, representatives of expert associations, academia, as well as relevant ministries and institutions from the SEE countries.

Results - model

- ▶ The calculator allows you to consider the choices and trade offs we face, as well as the steps we need to take in order to reach the future we want. It covers all parts of the economy in terms of energy production and consumption, as well as all greenhouse gas emissions released in the countries of South East Europe.
- ▶ The purpose of the SEE 2050 Calculator is to enable dialogue and to choose the best energy pathway for the future, with the goal to reach the CO2 emission reduction target of 80% compared to 1990 levels.
- ▶ Every user can generate his/her own scenario, but for advocacy purposes two scenarios were generated: - The EU road and The Road to Nowhere

Impacts

- ▶ CSOs are seen as a relevant partner in discussing energy issues;
- ▶ the multi-layered process of consultations is a showcase of good practise;
- ▶ the discussion on decarbonisation is open and is more active in comparison to the prior state of play

Communication

- ▶ Consultations
- ▶ Presentations
- ▶ Media work

Consequences

- ▶ A positive consequence is that we have a tool for opening and structuring discussions about energy issues, something that was more difficult prior to this;
- ▶ Although this was already a regional effort, there are possibilities to extend this practise of fact-based advocacy even further.
- ▶ A very positive consequence is that some institutions are much more open to have a serious discussion about energy issues with CSOs;
- ▶ To quote the head pf the energy agency, before ngos were like flies in a room - just constantly buzzing around, but now we know these flies can sting.

Thank you!

Nevena Smilevska

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