

ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT Policy Project

Running in parallel to the British Academy Debates on Energy and the Environment, the British Academy is drawing upon the expertise of its fellowship and disciplines to better understand the complexities around energy policy in the UK and internationally.

Through a series of activities – including original research, surveys, policy engagement and publications – the Academy will examine the cultures, meanings, ideas, values and language that shape energy policy and encourage or constrain the kinds of solutions we develop.

THE CULTURE OF COMMUNITY ENERGY

The Academy has commissioned a team led by Rebecca Willis, in association with Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University, to research case studies of community energy projects across the world, to understand better the cultural contexts behind those projects. Her team will be asking why community energy projects – such as co-operatively owned wind farms, or shared solar panels – take root in some countries rather than others. We hope to understand whether citizens' values, their ideas and ideologies about energy, and other cultural aspects such as the national and local history of activism or shared ownership, impact on the success of community energy projects.

THE LANGUAGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The Academy is examining the relationship between language and action around energy and climate change. Taking lessons from the past, we will use a series of high-level meetings, in partnership with colleagues from Government, to examine how words and concepts have differing impacts among populations and over time, and the interactions between cultural conditions and language in shaping behaviour.

SHARE YOUR VIEWS

The Academy is interested to hear what you think about alternative forms of energy generation. If you had the money, would you invest in a community energy project? And what would motivate you? – for example, would you want to do your bit to tackle climate change, or simply want to reduce your energy bills? Which particular technology appeals the most? Would you prefer solar panels to a wind turbine?
Have your say www.britishacademy.ac.uk/debates or policy@britac.ac.uk

MORE INFORMATION

Throughout this project, the Academy will be convening a number of policy forums to feedback research findings to Government and industry, before a final report is published in the New Year.

Visit the British Academy's website for more information
www.britishacademy.ac.uk/debates and follow us on
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Would you
invest in a
community
energy project?