

Energy: working for a sustainable future

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Meeting Global Challenges

Energy is a crucial component of modern life. With dwindling resources and a hugely complex mechanism of energy control, the energy policy debate is, as yet, limited in its ability to incorporate new, or alternative, approaches to analysing and explaining evolving international contexts and how this affects the future of domestic energy.

A Multidisciplinary Approach

Such a complex and crucial question cannot be answered by looking at one facet of the problem. The distinctive element of this project is to bring together three overlapping disciplinary research areas of expertise to address the problem of energy security: energy policy, international relations and research about supply chains.

Energy Policy and Sustainability Research Group views this question as a system issue. This approach therefore requires addressing all the issues which make up a system. These include policy studies, politics, economic regulation, economics, innovation, law, planning and research into infrastructure and institutions.

Research Impact

Discovering new approaches in analysing and explaining evolving international contexts and their implications for domestic energy security is not a simple matter. This research cluster aims to address this crucial issue and explore how Britain could develop strategic, flexible relationships with energy supply countries for the benefit of its future.

The Energy Policy Group's work impacts energy system innovation at a local, regional, national and international level; with their interests lying in how to undertake the transformation from the current 'dirty' energy system to a more sustainable one, at a rate which is quick enough to make a difference in transport, waste resources and food policy as well as how energy policy fits within the broader climate change policy.

Funding Sources

The Energy Policy Group has attracted significant funding for this work from the European Commission, the ESRC, EPSRC and through UKERC. Most recently the project has been awarded funding by the ESRC/EPSRC to establish an interdisciplinary research cluster entitled 'Energy Security in a Multi-Polar World' (2009-2013).