



Taking a gender approach to the energy transition

Joy Clancy, Professor Emeritus Energy and Gender, University of Twente, NL
Joint Sub-Task Leader IEA Users TCP Gender and Energy Research Programme
Member Advisory Committee SSCALE

CONTENT

- ▶ Energy Poverty and the energy transition
- ▶ What's a gender approach in policy design and implementation
- ▶ Why do it
- ▶ Some insights into gender and energy poverty nexus in Europe
- ▶ What to do

Energy poverty – an issue for the energy transition

- ▶ Energy poverty occurs when a household experiences inadequate levels of essential energy services in the home, such as heating, cooling, lighting and use of appliances.
- ▶ Energy Poverty – exists throughout Europe
54 million people? Probably a significant underestimate – linked to the way vulnerable people are classified which varies across Europe

What's a gender approach in policy design and implementation?

- ▶ Recognises the social differences between women and men which are further differentiated by other social characteristics (class, age, ethnicity, religion, social status etc).
- ▶ Seeks to understand the basis of these differences and take them into account when designing and implementing policies?
- ▶ Requires a recognition that energy policy is gender-blind which can lead to inadvertent discrimination

Why take a gender approach in the energy transition?

- ▶ **Depends on whose asking the question!**
- ▶ **Women:** access to meaningful work
gender equality
challenge to patriarchy
- ▶ **Companies:** it's good for business
Women in senior positions act as role models
- ▶ **Government:** contributes to social and economic goals

Gender and Energy Poverty Nexus in the European Context – some things we know

Our research for the FEMM Committee of the European Parliament found:

- ▶ Women more likely than men to live in Energy Poverty
- ▶ Old women more likely than younger
- ▶ In single person households young men have higher energy consumption than young women.
- ▶ Wood – cooking and heating fuel (Bulgaria & ??)
Not always fuel of the poor!

Women carry the burden for energy conservation



Our survey in Netherlands showed women were responsible for energy use in household & men made decision about energy sources

Women in partnership
–woman working
outside home used
more energy than
working at home
women

What can we do?

Understand your target group!

- ▶ **Take gender approach in data collection and analysis**
No data – no visibility; no visibility – no interest
Asking the right questions to the right people by the right people and avoid 'generic names' (eg communities, consumers)
- ▶ **Collect quantitative AND qualitative intra-household data** – not reliant on 'household head'
Present data intersectionally – helps identify vulnerable women and men from different communities
- ▶ **Understand what constitutes a 'household'**
No accepted standard definition – a suggestion:
Social unit which share common features (such as co-residence, joint production, shared consumption, and kinship links)
Dynamic – members change over time (reasons biological, social, economic, political)

Some other things to do

- ▶ **Use gender budgeting/gender auditing**

Budgeting - analytical quantitative approach to ensure budgetary allocation of public funds with policies and programmes contribute to advancing gender equality

Auditing – analytical qualitative approach to identify and analyse the factors that hinder efforts to mainstream gender in policy

- ▶ **Organisational assessment**

How gender aware and diverse is the organisation?

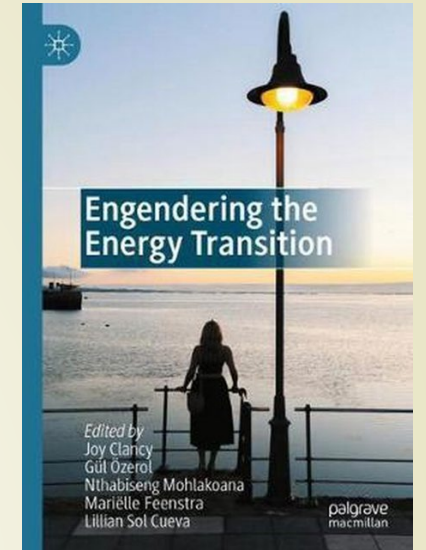
Diversity awareness training

Thank you for listening
Happy to respond to questions and comments

Special thank you to RVO and FEMM Committee
European Parliament for the financial support



UsersTCP



References on gender budgets and audits

- ▶ Budgeting see for example: **Budlender**, D. and Hewitt, G. (2003). Engendering Budgets: A Practitioner's Guide to Understanding and Implementing Gender-Responsive Budgets. London: The Commonwealth Secretariat.
Also **Elson**, D. and Sharp, R. (2010). "Gender-responsive budgeting and women's poverty". In Chant S. (ed.) International Handbook of Gender and Poverty: Concepts, Research, Policy. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.
- ▶ Audits see for example: J S Clancy and N. Mohlakoana (2020) Gender audits: an approach to engendering energy policy in Nepal, Kenya and Senegal. Energy Research and Social Science 62

GENDER JUST ENERGY TRANSITIONS: MULTI-LEVEL & CROSS-SECTORAL PERSPECTIVE

Mariëlle Feenstra

PhD Candidate, University of Twente, The Netherlands

Joint sub-task leader Users TCP Gender and Energy research programme

@energyfeminist



ENGENDERING POLICY

“Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance.”

Kofi Annan



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



1 NO
POVERTY



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



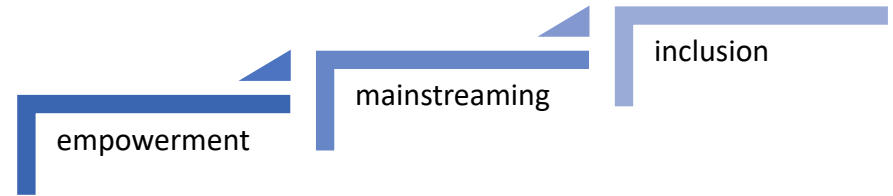
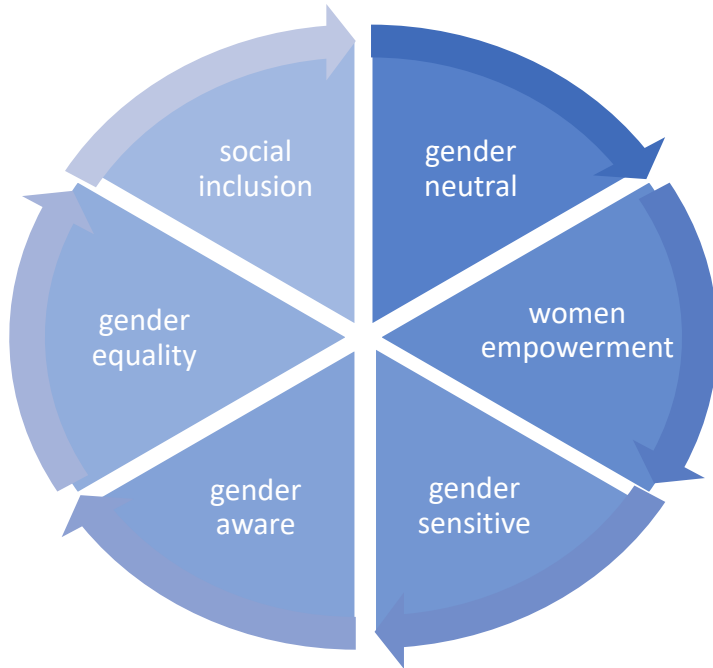
ENERGY JUSTICE AND POLICY DESIGN

Table 1: the evaluative and normative contributions of energy justice to policy design

Tenets	Evaluative	Normative
Distributional	<i>Where</i> are the injustices?	How should we <i>solve</i> them?
Recognition	<i>Who</i> is ignored?	How should we <i>recognise</i> ?
Procedural	Is there fair <i>process</i> ?	Which new processes to <i>develop</i> ?

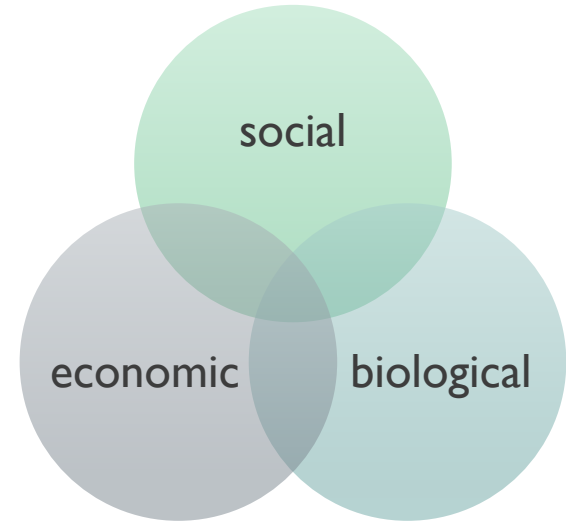
Based on: Jenkins et al. (2016)

GENDER SPECTRUM

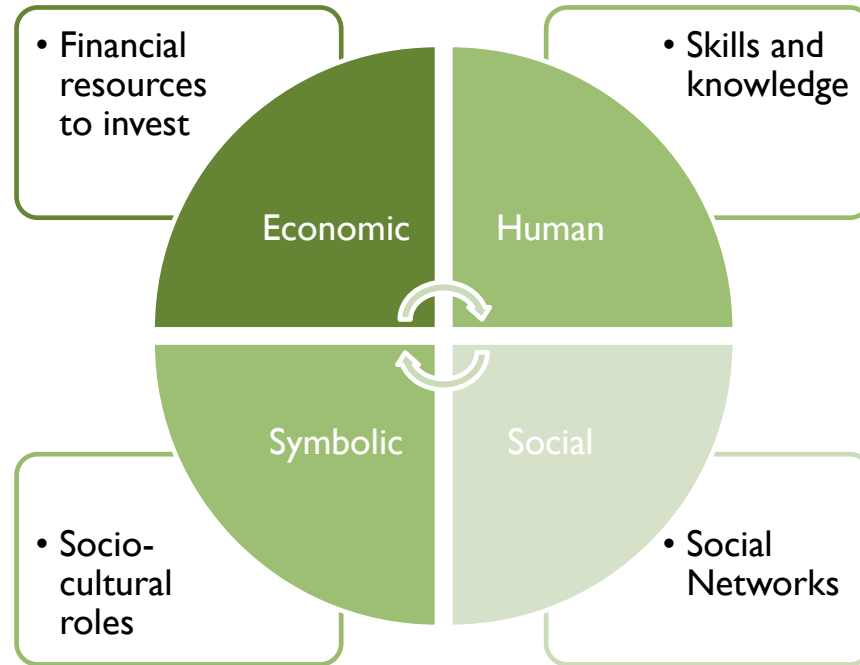


TRIPLE ROLE OF ACTORS IN THE ENERGY SYSTEM

- Consumer
 - Gender differences in energy needs and uses
 - Gender dimension of energy poverty
- Producer
 - Women underrepresented in the energy sector
 - Girls studying STEM?
- Decision-maker
 - Gender inequality in power positions: corporate and public sector
 - Gender-gap in stakeholder participation
- PROSUMER?



CAPITAL APPROACHES



ECONOMIC & SOCIAL CAPITAL

BASED ON LEI RESEARCH STANDAL & FEENSTRA

Capital	Case Findings	Key challenge	Policy interventions
Economic	Household decisions on consumption	Finance, investment, collateral, loans	Subsidies, special tariffs, loans, employment opportunities <i>(welfare & financial)</i>
Social	Leadership positions and employment in management and ownership	Network, time poverty, volunteering, decision making	Affirmative action, costs reimbursement, intermediate actors (e.g. government), employment and education opportunities <i>(labour market & participation)</i>

HUMAN & SYMBOLIC CAPITAL

BASED ON LEI RESEARCH STANDAL & FEENSTRA

Capital	Case Findings	Key challenge	Policy interventions
Human	Leadership positions and employment in management and ownership	Knowledge, interest, skills, experiences	STEM promotion, literacy programs, training, marketing <i>(education)</i>
Symbolic	Lack of voice and legitimacy in public space, leadership positions and employment on household, community and project level	Context, historical, traditions, religion,	Gender equality in legislation and education curriculum <i>(culture & participation)</i>

OBSERVATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Place equality at the core of action
 - Implement an enabling policy
 - Enforce a legal framework (laws, bylaws, etc)
- Create a financial support system
 - Design instalment schemes, flexible tariffs, subsidies
- Facilitate cross-sector coordination
 - Break the governance silos in policy, legislation and implementation
 - Collaborate with other (community) partners