

Workshop on Formulation & Implementation of Low Carbon Policies in Electricity Sector

-An Inclusive Approach towards Good Governance

November 9, 2013,

Floatel, Kolkata

The programme started with the **welcome address by Dr. Keya Ghosh**, Director, CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre. In her speech she highlighted the importance of the low carbon policies and stated that there is a need of implementing such policies. The workshop will explore the tool kit that was developed by the World Resource Institute and used by Chetana Society and the People's Monitoring Group on Electricity Regulation in Andhra Pradesh and how that can be used in West Bengal.

In his deliberation on '**Need for Good Governance in Electricity Sector: an introduction**', **Bharath Jairaj**, Senior Associate, Governance and Access, World Resource Institute (WRI), gave an overview of the WRI. He said that good governance is necessary for proper implementation of policies. Policy implementation is connected to policy design and so we need to make a proper framework of policies. We need to identify the barriers in policy implementation, Mr. Bharath mentioned. He further stressed that there is a need to strengthen the private partners alongside the public enterprises for proper implementation and hence the CSO involvement in this process is necessary.

After the welcome session, **Mr. Prithviraj Nath**, Consultant, CUTS CRC, made a presentation on '**Overview of Low Carbon Energy Policies in India**'. He highlighted the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) of the Government of India and its eight missions, namely, National Solar Mission, National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency, National Mission on Sustainable Habitat, National Water Mission, National Mission for a 'Green India', National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem, National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change, National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture. In his presentation, he touched upon the objectives of each mission.

This was followed by the presentation on '**Policy Implementation Diagnostic Framework Tool Kit**' by **Mr. Narasimha Reddy**, Chief Mentor, Chetana Society. He mentioned that this tool kit is important because just putting policy in place is not sufficient; design and execution of the policy implementation process is important. There is also a need for a coherent set of governance and institutional arrangements. This tool kit will enable us to determine the extent to which policy implementation adheres to policy design, identify barriers to effective policy implementation and to identify practices that facilitate successful policy implementation. Mr. Reddy maintained that stakeholders' engagement is necessary because diverse and meaningful input from a range of actors helps improve policy formulation and implementation.

In his deliberation on ‘**Understanding Implementation Challenges in Renewable Energy Policies in Andhra Pradesh**’, **Mr. M. Thimma Reddy**, Convenor, People’s Monitoring Group on Electricity Regulation, said that most of the policies came into force in the context of global climate change. Low Carbon Policies have supply side interventions and demand side management (DSM) measures. In supply side, there is solar energy and wind energy and in DSM, there is agriculture and industry. Solar energy policy has faulty design and faltering steps. Wind energy policy has lack of transparency. Mr. Reddy further mentioned that the implementation measures in DSM are not even 10 per cent completed. There is no coordination among the departments of electricity, ground water, irrigation and agriculture. He touched upon the National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE), State Energy Conservation Mission.

This morning session was followed by a lunch break.

The post lunch session was a panel discussion on ‘Low Carbon Policies: Developments and Challenges and Utilising the Policy Implementation Diagnostic Framework in Eastern India’. The discussion was chaired by **Dr. Keya Ghosh**, Director, CUTS CRC. The panel members in this discussion were **Shushovan Bhattacharya**, Director, West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency, **Duke Ghosh**, Researcher, Global Change Research, **Prititosh Ray**, Member (Retd.) West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission, **Dipak Chakraborty**, Secretary, Chanchal Jana Kalyan Samity, **B. L. Chandak**, Executive Director (Corporate), Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, **C. R. Bhaumik**, Advisor, (Retd.) West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission and **Sanjay Mondal**, Chief Founder, Mogra Women Development Centre.

Participating in the discussion, **Mr. Shushovan Bhattacharya** said that the common people can contribute in a large way in saving energy, for example, by using battery cooker. CSOs can generate awareness in remote parts about the energy issues. In his speech, **Mr. Duke Ghosh** said that resources are required to implement policy. Hence, we must assess the capacities of our multi-tier governance system from the centre to the district level before implementing a policy. He observed that in most of the cases, the finance department of the government is not included in the core committee who decides on policy and the finance department plays a vital role in any policy implementation.

In his deliberation, **Mr. Prititosh Roy** maintained that intense awareness programme is necessary in a larger scale to increase the use of solar and renewable energy. He said that the thermal power plants are responsible for a lot of carbon dioxide emission. So, the thermal power plants have to be made efficient with the introduction of new technology. He suggested that solar power plants can be built inside the space of the thermal power plants. There is a dire need to preserve the forest and water bodies around us, he mentioned.

In his address, **Mr. Dipak Chakraborty** said that ‘Low Carbon Policy’ is not a familiar term to most of the CSOs. It will take much time to understand the policy and the issues relevant to it. Much advocacy is needed in this regard, he mentioned. Bio-gas plant establishment in villages would reduce the carbon emission and such plants can be promoted in rural areas, he

further suggested, adding that there is a need to build the capacity of the CSOs first in this regard.

Mr. BL Chandak in his speech mentioned about the CESC's initiatives regarding low carbon policies. He said that all major class of consumers, for example, commercial, industrial, public water works can avail ToD tariff and make substantial saving in their electricity bill. Also, street light with LED can avail lower tariff. Various initiatives have been implemented by the CESC for conservation of natural resources and reduction in greenhouse gases. These projects of the CESC have resulted in saving of 207000 tons of carbon-dioxide equivalent from going into the air, Mr. Chandak mentioned.

Mr. CR Bhowmik said that whatever policy we develop, the policy should be very practical. Three aspects, namely, funds, technology and behaviour should be taken care of when a policy is being made. In renewable energy sector, small hydro, solar and wind are the three sectors which must be given utmost importance for generating renewable energy. In his remarks, **Mr. Sanjay Mondal** mentioned that primarily CSOs can only be associated with awareness generation. For implementation part, CSOs can be partners with the respective government department.

The programme ended with vote of thanks from the chair.

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Agenda

9.30 am to 10 am	Registration
10 am to 10.30 am	Welcome Address <i>Keya Ghosh, Director, CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre</i> Need for Good Governance in Electricity Sector: an Introduction <i>Bharath Jairaj, Senior Associate, Governance & Access, World Resource Institute</i>
10.30 am to 10.45 am	Overview of Low Carbon Energy Policies in India <i>Prithviraj Nath, Consultant, CUTS International</i>
10.45 a.m. to 11.45	Policy Implementation Diagnostic Framework Tool Kit <i>Narasimha Reddy, Chief Mentor, Chetana Society</i> <i>Open Floor Discussion</i>
11.45 am to 12.00	Tea Break
12.00 to 12.45 pm	Understanding Implementation Challenges in Renewable Energy Policies in Andhra Pradesh <i>M. Thimma Reddy, Convenor, People's Monitoring Group On Electricity regulation</i> <i>Open Floor Discussion</i>
12.45 to 1.30 p.m.	Understanding Implementation Challenges in Demand Side Management (DSM) policies in Andhra Pradesh <i>M. Thimma Reddy</i> <i>Open Floor Discussion</i>
1.30 pm to 2.15 pm	Lunch
2:15 p.m. to 3.15 pm	Panel Discussion on Low Carbon Policies: Developments and Challenges <i>Chair: Bharath Jairaj, Senior Associate, Governance & Access, World Resource Institute of West Bengal</i> <i>Discussants:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Shushovan Bhattacharya, Director, West Bengal Renewable Energy development Agency</i>• <i>Duke Ghosh, Researcher, Global Change Research</i>• <i>Prititosh Ray, Member (Retd.) West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dipak Chakraborty, Secretary, Chanchal Jana Kalyan Samity</i>
3.15 pm to 3.30 pm	Tea Break
3.30 pm to 4.45 pm	<p>Panel Discussion on Utilizing the Policy Implementation Diagnostic Framework in Eastern India:</p> <p><i>Chair: Narayan Swaroop Nigam, CMD, West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. (WBSEDCL)</i></p> <p><i>Discussants:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>B. L. Chandak, Executive Director (Corporate), Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation</i> • <i>C. R. Bhaumik, Advisor, (Retd.) West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission</i> • <i>Keya Ghosh, Director, CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre</i> • <i>Sanjay Mondal, Chief Founder, Mogra Women Development Centre</i>
4.45 pm to 5 pm	<p>Wrap up</p> <p><i>Bharath Jairaj, Senior Associate, Governance & Access, World Resource Institute</i></p> <p>Vote of Thanks</p> <p><i>Keya Ghosh, Director, CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre</i></p>