

Policy entry points for facilitating a transition towards a low-carbon electricity future

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Abstract

This paper extends the ambit of the debate on electricity transition by, specifically, identifying possible policy entry points through which transformative and enduring changes can be made in the electricity and socio-economic systems to facilitate the transition process. Guided by the ‘essence’ of the multi-level perspective (MLP) – a prominent framework for the study of energy transition, four such entry points have been identified: 1) destabilising the dominant, fossil fuels-based electricity regime to create room for renewable technologies to break through; 2) reconfiguring the electricity regime, encompassing technology, short-term operational practices, and long-term planning processes, to improve flexibility to accommodate large outputs from variable renewable sources while maintaining supply security; 3) addressing the impact of coal power phase-out on coal mining regions in terms of economic development and jobs; and 4) facilitating a shift in transition governance towards a learning-based, reflexive process. Specific areas for policy interventions within each of these entry points have also been discussed in the paper.

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