

Models of energy transition at the global level

At the global level, World Future Councils are tracking essential policy issues and alternative strategies being used to accelerate the energy transition. The role of cities in leading transition to 100% renewable energy is highlighted. Priority sectors within the energy transition space are also set out—energy conservation and the importance of electrification of heating, cooling, and transport. They discuss the rationale for maximizing distribution of benefits for citizens, for legislative action, for ensuring a strategic role for local governments and for crafting systematic approaches to education about opportunities; all are set out. Policy makers are advised to take an integrated approach to fiscal, energy and economic policy to avoid getting trapped into functional categories that alone cannot address the transition challenges.

6.9 Read “Policy Strategies for Inclusive Renewable Energy in Aotearoa (New Zealand).” (7 minutes)

Berka, Anna, Julie MacArthur, Steve Matthewman, Stephen Poletti, and Maria Bargh. “Policy Strategies for Inclusive Renewable Energy in Aotearoa New Zealand,” Auckland Policy Commons (blog), December 6, 2018. <https://www.policycommons.ac.nz/2018/12/06/policy-strategies-for-inclusive-renewable-energy-in-aotearoa-new-zealand/> (<https://www.policycommons.ac.nz/2018/12/06/policy-strategies-for-inclusive-renewable-energy-in-aotearoa-new-zealand/>)

In this reading, “Policy Strategies for Inclusive Renewable Energy in Aotearoa (New Zealand),” the authors of the article and associated policy brief summarize the key benefits of local and community energy (Table 1), as well as a framework of enabling policy for the sector, ranging from market access to capacity building (Figure 1). This piece highlights the important contextual differences found in the development of local energy innovation in different cultural, geographic, and national contexts.

They also highlight how local and community energy is as much about grid development and efficiency projects as it is about new generation. Also notable is that in New Zealand, participation of Indigenous Maori communities is particularly salient given the socioeconomic challenges that arose out of the colonial project there. This environmental justice aspect of energy democracy has implications in other jurisdictions such as Canada, Australia, the United States, and elsewhere.