

Workshop
Role of Government Support and Market-Based Financing
in India's Clean Energy Transition

27 March 2019 | 0930 – 1330 hrs
Hall – 2000, Le Méridien, New Delhi

About the Workshop

The purpose of this workshop is to bring together policymakers and think tanks to deliberate on how interventions that affect costs and prices in the energy sector—subsidies, taxes, regulation, and financing options—impact India's energy transition to a higher share of renewable energy and decreased overall emissions intensity. New data on subsidies will be presented in the context of overall government support offered to various fossil fuels and renewable energy sources. Findings from studies focusing on the impact of taxation on various energy types will also be a critical part of the discussion.

Various energy sources in India receive direct and indirect government support that influences both the supply and the consumption of energy. Individual sectors such as power generation, industry, road transportation, and infrastructure also receive support that may influence their energy usage. Such policies require scrutiny and assessment to ensure that they are aligned with India's energy policy objectives. Removal of subsidies, particularly those pertaining to the consumer price of electricity and LPG, can have distributional effects. Concerns about these effects and ways to address them will keep the discussion grounded in the importance of accessible and affordable energy for consumers. Equally, the availability of financing, which reflects the 'true' long-term risks and costs of clean energy sources vis-à-vis conventional energy has remained a challenge for those creating infrastructure and incentivising end-use consumption of clean energy. At the same time, emerging alternatives to debt capital, such as green bonds, confer significant advantages to segments including clean energy and clean transportation. These avenues need to be explored further.

This workshop will be a platform for experts and policymakers from across sectors to exchange their ideas, views and most importantly, data, to make informed decisions going forward.

Agenda

- 0930 – 1000** **Registration & tea**
- 1000 – 1010** **Welcome and opening remarks**
Karthik Ganesan, Research Fellow, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)
- 1010 – 1030** **Presentation – Key issue areas for energy subsidies in 2019**
Christopher Beaton, Senior Policy Advisor and Lead, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
- This session will set out some thematic areas for discussion: do subsidies meaningfully impact energy access and efforts to improve targeting; GST and how policy should respond to shifting renewable energy costs; and support for coal in the light of the stressed asset crisis.
- 1030 – 1130** **Respondents panel and open discussion**
Ashutosh Jindal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India
Rahul Tongia, Fellow, Brookings India
Rohit Chandra, Independent Researcher – Coal
Sacchidananda Mukherjee, Associate Professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy
Moderated by **Karthik Ganesan**, Research Fellow, CEEW
- 1130 – 1145** **Tea**
- 1145 – 1205** **Presentation – Financing India’s new energy system**
Abhinav Soman, Programme Associate, CEEW
- This session will attempt to provide a perspective on the challenges providing ‘market competitive’ financing terms for investments in RE power generation as well as for the ambitious EV roll out. The enabling conditions to tap into a potentially large bond market and preparedness of the ecosystem will particularly be the focus.
- 1205 – 1315** **Respondents panel and open discussion**
Sharmila Chavaly, Principal Financial Advisor, Northern Railway
Gagan Sidhu, Senior Independent Adviser (Renewable Energy)
Vinay Sekar, Senior Vice President, Cube Highways
Moderated by **Kanika Chawla**, Senior Programme Lead, CEEW
- 1315 – 1330** **Vote of thanks and next steps on research questions**
- 1330 onwards** **Lunch**

**To be confirmed*