

Program:

India Energy Program

Event: Role of Scenario Planning in Tamil Nadu's Energy Transition

Working Paper Release:

Supply And Demand Scenarios For Tamil Nadu's Electricity Mix To 2030: Implications For The State's Energy Transition

Highlight/s from the Event:

On Tuesday, May 24, 2022, WRI India conducted a workshop to share the role of scenario analysis in electricity planning by presenting plausible supply and demand trends in Tamil Nadu's energy mix by 2030. The closed-door event was held at Raintree Hotel, Chennai and was attended by 40 participants representing government bodies, civil society organizations, energy experts, partners, and colleagues.

Further, a working paper on "Supply And Demand Scenarios For Tamil Nadu's Electricity Mix To 2030: Implications For The State's Energy Transition" was launched by Thiru Vikram Kapur, I.A.S, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Planning and Development Department.

Solar PV and wind energy in Tamil Nadu accounts for nearly 45% of the total installed capacity and 20-25% of generation mix. With India announcing an ambitious 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity target by 2030, utilities at the state level will play a crucial role in managing addition of renewable capacities along with changing demand patterns. In Tamil Nadu, while there have been efforts to integrate higher capacities of RE in the electricity mix, given the potential RE capacity and existing fossil fuel capacity, can renewables act as a lifeline for the state in the years to come? Scenario analyses can aid the state in project-level planning and financial investment decisions as well as in integrated resource planning processes, infrastructure planning, capital investment plans, budgets, and multiyear tariff orders.

In the welcome address, Mr Bharath Jairaj, Executive Director, Energy Program, set the context by sharing the pivotal role of the state in energy planning and the need to align interests of different stakeholders. Thiru Vikram Kapur delivered the keynote address by highlighting some of the challenges the state is facing and possible pathways for the state to move towards a clean energy transition. Sandhya Sundararagavan, Lead in the Energy Program presented findings of the research paper and the role that scenario planning will play in the state's future energy planning processes.

This workshop also hosted a panel discussion to hear views from experts on implications of Tamil Nadu's current electricity situation, the current set of resource and financial challenges the sector faces and examined how renewables could pave a favourable pathway in the state's transition to clean energy. It was moderated by Amit Kumar, Senior fellow, WRI India. The distinguished panellists include Ann Josey, Fellow, Prayas Energy Group; G. Sundarrajan, Poovulagin Nanbargal; Martin Scherfler, Co-founder, Auroville Consulting; Sibi Arasu, Independent Journalist; Bharath Jairaj, Executive Director, Energy Program, WRI India; Sandhya Sundararagavan, Lead, Energy Transitions, Energy Program, WRI India

Few highlights of the panel discussion include:

- Mr G. Sundarrajan from Poovulagin Nanbargal emphasized the need for tracking carbon intensity at the state level and the urgent need to focus on energy efficiency, behavioural change and decentralized RE systems keeping just transition in view.

- Mr Martin Scherfler co-founder from Auroville Consulting added that increasing the distributed energy resources will help state Discom's to reduce their transmission and distribution losses.
- Ms Ann Josey, fellow at Prayas Energy Group shared that there could be a paradigm shift in Discom's role in planning going forward due to the risks associated with power purchase agreements on the supply side and uncertainties due to migration of C&I consumers on the demand side.
- Mr Sibi Arasu, an independent journalist highlighted that the role of journalism has changed in the climate change space and Tamil Nadu could consider learning from other states on how DRE could help rural entrepreneurs and livelihoods in providing reliable power supply.

This workshop was conducted under Sustainable Energy Transformation – Tamil Nadu (SET-TN), which is a collaborative initiative by Auroville Consulting (AVC), Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG), and the World Resources Institute India (WRI India). SET aims to facilitate higher clean energy deployment in Tamil Nadu by working with stakeholders to find sustainable and equitable solutions.

Event Link: <https://wri-india.org/events/role-scenario-planning-tamil-nadus-energy-transition>

Paper Link: <https://www.wri.org/research/tamil-nadu-electricity-mix-2030-states-energy-transition>

Tweets:

<https://twitter.com/WRIIndia/status/1529349625614061569?ext=HHwWgsDSwbbYq7kqAAAA>

Photos:



Photo 1. Paper Release by the distinguished guest Thiru. Vikram Kapur, I.A.S, Additional chief secretary, planning and development department



Photo 2. Bharath Jairaj, Director, India Energy, WRI, delivering the welcome address.



Photo 3. Thiru. Vikram Kapur delivering the keynote address along with the presentation



Photo 4. The workshop participants applauding after the presentation of Thiru. Vikram Kapur I.A.S



Photo 5. Sandhya Sundararaghavan, Lead - Energy, WRI presented findings of the research paper



Photo 6. The distinguished panellists (sitting L-R) Sibi Arasu, Sundarrajan, Ann Josey, Martin Scherfler, Amit Kumar (Moderator)



Photo 7. Thiru Vikram Kapur, I.A.S addressing the questions from the participants.



Photo 8. Group memory of WRI team along with the distinguished guest and panellists