*HIA – Module 3*

Read the instructions and each question carefully and write your answer in the respective green box. **Remember to always cite your sources to the information you provide!** You’ll find a reference box after each answer box. Please use the Harvard referencing style.

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For this assignment you are supposed to reflect and replicate what you have learned about society and energy transition. Before you start this assignment, please read the papers in the study guide as well as chapt. 3,6 and 10 of the course literature.

1. What is NIMBY and why can that be a problem when building new renewable energy sources? What hinders citizens to take action in the energy transition and what can be done to encourage citizens according to Lennon, Dunphy and Sanvicente (2019). What role do energy communities play? Write ca. 500 (+/- 20%) words.

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| **Answer:** | NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) is an umbrella term for a wide category of local resistance behaviours against development of new infrastructure or transformations related among others to energy, industry, landscape changes etc. Of course in this context we focus on the NIMBYism against RES (renewable energy sources).  Lennon, Dunphy and Sanvicente (2019) discuss common motivations against renewable energy deployments. They point towards high local costs compared to perceived local benefits, inappropriate scale of development and limited citizen involvement in energy planning. That last point is echoed by Mulvaney (2020), citing Pasqualetti's (2011) research showing that participatory approaches including the communities in the decision process yield better results than the "decide-announce-defend" approach.  Large-scale projects, such as wind-farms create also negative side-effects such as (Lennon, Dunphy, Sanvicente 2019): - Detriments to human health; - Biodiversity loss, for instance due to bird collisions wind turbines (Mulvaney, 2020 citing Bernardino et al. 2018); - Landscape degradation; - Negative impact on tourism and property prices, though research shows that this effect can be only temporary and in the long run wind farms may have positive impact on property prices (Mulvaney 2020, citing Pasqualetti 2001);  Unfortunately in some cases, transition to renewable energy sources is disincentivized by the government, even when people are already motivated to undertake such change. We see an example in the "Sun Tax" implemented in Spain, creating a financial burden on citizens for consuming energy from their own solar panels (Patagonia, 2021). In other cases, the institutional set up may simply not be ready yet to empower energy communities (Magnusson and Palm, 2019).  RES projects can be also opposed by indigenous people when they feel their rights or their land are not respected. Native Americans have directed several lawsuits against solar developers building infrastructure over their sacred sites and burial grounds (Mulvaney 2020 citing Mulvaney 2019). Sámi people have been fighting wind farm plans on the areas traditionally used for reindeer herding, for example in Fosen, Norway. In 2021 (after the wind farms had been completed) the Supreme Court of Norway determined these projects to indeed violate the indigenous people's rights to enjoying their culture (Amnesty International, 2025).  Speaking of wind power, a commercial wind farm project described by Lennon, Dunphy and Sanvicente (2019) as PBM 2 in their study received the worst assessment out of 6 described business models. It failed to give control to the local community or encourage participation, didn't create benefits for the community and the generated wealth left the community to be accumulated by individuals at (inter-)national levels instead (Lennon, Dunphy, Sanvicente 2019).  Lennon, Dunphy and Sanvicente (2019) emphasize the importance of local participation and ownership, perception of fairness and trust towards the leaders of change. These are crucial not only to incentivize people to work together, but also to prevent conflicts and winners-losers situations from arising in the communities. From this point of view, the traditional distinction between customers and suppliers should be challenged in favour of more inclusive consideration of stakeholders.  A common thread between successful business models was feeding the profit back to the local community, for example providing free home insulation to the financially vulnerable members or insulation upgrades in public schools and hospitals (Lennon, Dunphy, Sanvicente 2019).  Finally, Lennon, Dunphy and Sanvicente (2019) point to the paradox in the facts that 1) energy is crucial to nearly every human activity and 2) people feel alienation and lack of agency in relation to energy systems. |

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| **References:** | Lennon, Dunphy, Sanvicente 2019  Mulvaney, 2020  Pasqualetti, 2011  Bernardino et al. 2018  Pasqualetti, 2001  Amnesty International, 2025  Patagonia, 2021  Magnusson and Palm, 2019 |

2. What makes the energy transition a wicked problem according to Köppel (2024) and how can we deal with these kinds of problems, according to De Tombe (2002)? Write ca. 500 (+/- 20%) words.

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| **Answer:** |  |

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| **References:** |  |

4. After what you have learned in Module 3, what do you think is society’s role in sustainable energy transition. You are asked to give your own opinion. You are of course allowed to refer to the course literature to strengthen your arguments and perspectives. Write ca. 500 (+/- 20%) words.

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| **Answer:** |  |

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| **References:** |  |

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| **AI**  **Declaration:** | (List all the generative AI tools used in this assignment, if you have used any, and the purpose for using it. If you have not used generative AI, you should say that) |