

Empowering all: Gender in policy and implementation for achieving transitions to sustainable energy.

The UsersTCP Task *Empowering all: Gender in policy and implementation for achieving transitions to sustainable energy* gathers researchers from the fields of gender and energy in a global network to analyse energy policy and technologies from gender perspectives and provide recommendations for policy and technology design and implementation. We aim to ensure that gender perspectives are applied to support the participating countries in their work to design a more efficient and inclusive energy system, and through this also support ongoing efforts to foster energy transitions.

Our work shows that research on energy users and justice largely overlooks gender and class differences and the implementation of gender aware energy policy is hindered by the siloing of energy and social policy. To overcome this, inter-departmental and inter-ministerial coordination needs to be stepped up. An analysis of the gender-awareness of the European Fit for 55 programme did show that a gender dimension has been recognised in some of its initiatives, but is hindered by the lack of gender disaggregated data, including from Eurostat. We recommend that the EU and member states are tasked to gather disaggregated data and to include Gender Impact Assessments in their National Energy and Climate Plans, considered from an intersectional perspective beyond the binary and female empowerment only. Major energy user issues today relate to masculinity norms as well as stereotypical projections of all genders and their needs and activities.

Our work on technology development shows that lack of trust and feelings of loss of control are major issues for users, related to both the introduction of AI and smart grids. The current platforms and channels for communication between users and providers are often one-way and not user-friendly. Well

thought through technology, standards, social innovations and governance models can enable both the uptake of new sustainable energy systems and the transformation of gender roles and cultures. Epistemic exclusion needs to be battled by demystifying technology and making it accessible to all users. Middle actors such as energy advisors can be engaged to build trust, if they are given the proper resources.

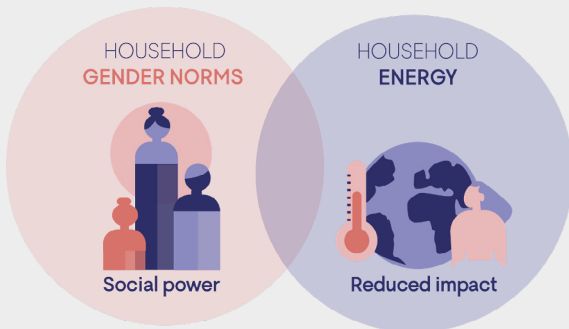
In general, our work points to a lack of clarity regarding division of responsibility between governance levels and actors, leaving users to fend for themselves with individual solutions and in relation to energy providers. This exacerbates already existing gender equality issues and social exclusion. Instead of withdrawing and putting the burden on individuals, the state needs to enable and empower diverse groups on a local level.



Major achievements during 2023/24

→ We published case study reports on **Sweden's Integrated Energy and Climate Plan** and on **Energy consulting in Austria**.

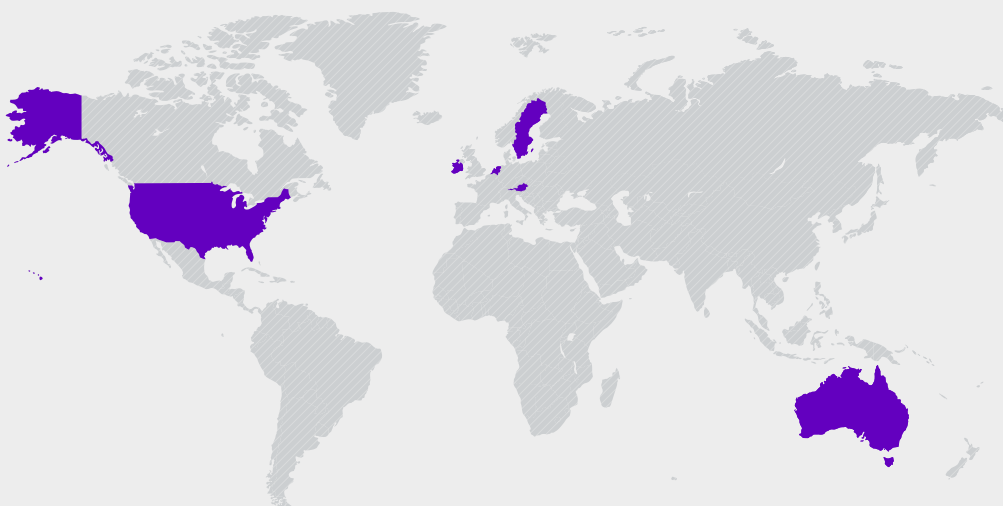
→ We held two workshops at the Swedish Energy Agency to support the integration of gender and user perspectives in their work, including the possibility of using funding structures to address user and social inclusion and addressing norms in the energy business, the Energy Agency and among users more broadly.



→ A first prototype of the household planner developed by Boid AB was tested at the Living Lab, run by HSB, Sweden's largest cooperative housing federation. This provided valuable insights for refining the concept and design, aligned with norm-aware and inclusive solutions.

→ Joy Clancy, who held the first university chair in Gender and Energy, held her farewell address in December alongside a symposium entitled **Gender and Energy research: Where are we now? Where do we want to go? How do we get there?** Our Task had a strong attendance at the BEHAVE conference with six Task participants presenting papers related to our Task work, while five of our National Experts spoke at a workshop organised by the German government, entitled "Who's got the power? – Sex and Gender in Energy Research".

→ A concept note for phase two of the Gender and Energy Task was approved at the Users TCP ExCo meeting in Delft in November. A formal proposal will be presented in spring 2024.



PARTICIPANTS

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