



WORKSHOPON

DEVELOPMENT OF DECARBONISATION STRATEGIES IN THE INDIAN STATES

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Context

India has set ambitious targets for Renewable Energy (RE) deployment and decarbonisation in the pursuit of its stated climate goals. In 2021 at the 26^{th} Conference of Parties (COP) held in Glasgow, India made a bold commitment to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2070, signifying a strong determination to combat climate change and contribute to the global effort of reducing carbon emissions. As per the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs), India now stands committed to reduce emission intensity by 45% from 2005 level and achieve 50% installed power capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030. While the updated NDC also represents the framework for India's transition to cleaner energy for the period 2021-2030, it also has committed to increase its carbon sinks by 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO_2e by 2030.

India's ambitious target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 requires a significant and rapid transition in both the energy and non-energy systems across India. While national targets, policies, and programmes are essential, they alone may not be sufficient to achieve this goal. The states in India have a critical role to play in this transition journey.

Each state has a unique socio-economic profile, energy consumption patterns and resources, natural resources and its management amongst others, which means that states need to develop and implement their own strategies and plans to decarbonise their respective economies. From an energy perspective, states need to go beyond meeting their Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPOs) and take additional measures to promote RE deployment, energy efficiency, etc.

Some states have made significant progress in deploying renewable energy and reducing their carbon emissions. Tamil Nadu has achieved a solar installed capacity of 7.4 GW as on December 2023 against the target of <u>9 GW</u> by 2023. Gujarat has set a target of <u>50%</u> of cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by the year 2030 with investments of around Rs. 5 lakh crores. On the other hand, some states are lagging and need to accelerate their efforts to meet their targets.

In this direction, it is crucial for all states to prioritise their efforts towards achieving their targets and accelerating the transition to clean energy to achieve India's national goal of net-zero emissions by 2070.

States also need to collaborate and coordinate with each other and with the central government to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy. This will require sharing best practices, data-driven analysis, and modelling efforts to understand the impacts and challenges of decarbonizing each sector and developing feasible and effective strategies. In summary, for India to achieve its target of net-zero emissions by 2070, states must play an active and significant role in the transition journey. They need to develop their own strategies and plans, go beyond current targets, implement innovative policies, and collaborate with each other to accelerate the transition.

About the workshop

In the context set above, Vasudha Foundation (VF) is organising workshop on 'Development of Decarbonisation Strategies in the Indian States' with the following objectives:

Stakeholder Collaboration

The workshop intends to bring together a pool of stakeholders and sector experts working at the state level to discuss possible low-carbon pathways in the Indian states. Decarbonisation strategies tailored to the specific needs and challenges of each state are needed through comprehensive dialogue and discussion. Thus, the workshop aims to strengthen collaboration between economywide stakeholders, including but not limited to, state-level nodal agencies, system operators, distribution utilities, policy institutions, and academia.

Data Transparency

Achieving a decarbonised economy across the states would require a holistic framework for the validation of data available within the departments in the state. The robustness of data availability thus would provide a direction to viable pathways towards modelling a net zero emissions economy. Lack of data availability and transparency within the state's jurisdiction is currently hindering the planning efforts undertaken by various institutions. Thus, the workshop aims to understand the role of data availability, challenges, and collaboration across various state departments.

Decarbonisation Roadmap

Identifying challenges in achieving medium to long-term decarbonisation pathways in the state is inevitable. Hence, the workshop is intended to understand recommendations from the stakeholders towards firming the pace of decarbonisation. This will help various stakeholders put their views on cross-sectoral collaboration within the state. To chart out low-carbon roadmaps, various tools and planning methodologies would be discussed which would be helpful to the state authorities. The current planning methods used across the state authorities would be discussed and a possible scope of refinement be recommended.