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ABSTRACT

This editorial introduces the main findings from the 33rd Volume of the International Journal of Sustainable Energy Planning and Management. First Madsen favourably reviews Verbruggen's book *Pricing carbon emissions: Economic reality and utopia*. This is followed by analyses of the role of islands in the energy transition taking a starting point in Samsø, the Orkneys and Madeira and subsequently a strategic niche management-based investigation of the transition of a Nigerian community. Then the role of the discount rate is explored taking the example of power production expansion in Ecuador. Lastly, the feasibility of landfill gas is explored under Ukrainian conditions.

Keywords

Pricing carbon emission;
Landfill gas in Ukraine
Community transition;
Energy islands;
OseMOSYS and Ecuador;

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1. Book review

Madsen [1] introduces a new type of content to the *International Journal of Sustainable Energy Planning and Management* – the book review. For this issue, Madsen has reviewed Verbruggen's new book *Pricing carbon emissions: Economic reality and utopia* [2] which taps into the ongoing discussion of how to ensure the transition to carbon-neutral energy systems. Is carbon pricing indeed a feasible means of ensuring that the correct steps are incentivised and taken? In his review, Madsen concludes, that “*If you wish to know more about why ‘pricing carbon emissions’ as a general policy is the wrong way to go, the book by Verbruggen is required and indispensable reading*”.

2. Ordinary articles

Marczinkowski [3] investigates the role of islands in the energy transition. Not specifically so-called *energy islands*, but rather in general how islands should be treated and how islands on the other hand can contribute

on a wider scale. Using three island cases – Samsø in Denmark, the Orkneys in Scotland and Madeira in Portugal – and drawing on the authors' previous island work on conditions on islands as reported in [4] and [5], Marczinkowski reflects on their role in the energy transition.

Butu and Stracham [6] draw on Strategic Niche Management to investigate the planning and implementation of a community-based energy transition project in a rural community of Nigeria. Based on interviews with a diverse selection of actors representing policymakers, developers, investors, and local community members, the work identifies a lack of engagement from all relevant actors, and in general a “*fragmented effort*” of the actors.

Heredia Fonseca & Gardumi [7] apply the OSeMOSYS [8] modelling system to assess the influence of applying separate discount rates when assessing power expansion and transition scenarios. They find, for instance, that renewable technologies can contribute significantly in the medium- and long-term, but this is mainly expected to be from hydropower, with only minor contributions

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from other technologies such as PV and wind power. The authors furthermore conclude that the potential expansion of medium and large-scale hydropower stations in Ecuador is not sensitive to the applied discount rate.

Kurbatove follows up on her 2018 paper on biogas [9] with a new analysis of the economic feasibility of electricity generation from landfill gas in Ukraine together with colleague Sidortsov [10]. The team finds good prospects for the technology with relatively low production cost for electricity. However, other renewable energy sources are still favoured over landfill gas for which the authors identify several potential areas for further investigation including access to investment capital, regulatory stability, incentives, current policy and the ongoing conflict on Ukrainian soil.

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