

In summary

A photograph of a power transmission system at sunset. Multiple steel lattice towers are silhouetted against a sky transitioning from deep blue at the top to a warm orange and yellow at the horizon. Numerous black power lines crisscross between the towers. In the center-left foreground, the word "Energy" is overlaid in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Energy



Oxford Policy
Management

About Oxford Policy Management's *In summary* series

Our *In summary* publications aim to give an introduction to a key area of our expertise and the capabilities we offer in supporting governments, funders, practitioners, and partners in achieving lasting, positive change through policy reform.

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Energy

Modern energy provides direct improvements to households' livelihoods and is fundamental to powering long-term economic growth. However, more than one billion people live without access to electricity, and three billion people lack clean and safe energy for cooking. Companies in low-income countries identify inadequate and unreliable electricity provision as a major constraint to increased productivity. For these reasons, governments increasingly place reliable, affordable, sustainable, and universally accessible energy at the core of their development strategies.

We have a fast-growing energy practice that supports low- and middle-income countries to meet their energy objectives. We work with national governments, research organisations, donors, and multilateral funders to design and implement energy policies and programmes, and facilitate high-impact learning.

We work across five thematic areas

Energy planning

- Assisting governments in strengthening integrated energy planning to match future demand with supply
- Conducting cost-benefit and multi-criteria analysis
- Appropriately supporting local energy planning

Power sector reform

- Enhancing institutional accountability and governance in the oil and gas sector
- Providing assistance to set affordable, cost-reflective tariffs which are aligned with the underlying economics of integrated energy planning
- Improving climate-proofing of power infrastructure

Energy access

- Helping households and firms to assess grid, mini-grid, and off-grid investment criteria
- Fostering an integrated approach to energy access, poverty alleviation, and sustainable development
- Linking energy access with gender and social inclusion



Energy financing

- Supporting governments to access international finance and attract sustainable, private-sector investments
- Modelling financial investment requirements
- Shaping fund design and management mechanisms

Energy research and policy analysis

- Bridging the gap between research and development practice, and policy design, policy implementation, and capacity building
- Supporting policy design and fiscal incentives to sustain energy planning
- Fostering evidence-based and inclusive policy design through problem-driven dialogue between academics, think tanks, and policymakers

We provide services globally across the policy cycle



Above: The OPM policy cycle. Our approach is firmly rooted in the policy cycle, from researching the key drivers of a problem through to implementing the chosen policy, and monitoring and evaluating progress.



Map above is based on a Gall-Peters projection

Research

We carry out qualitative and quantitative research and assessments and provide evidence-based solutions.

Examples of our work include:

- Leading the DFID-funded Energy and Economic Growth (EEG) Applied Research Programme
- Mapping gaps for early-stage financing in renewable energy in an energy market landscape study in Africa
- Producing a topic guide on the power sector for DFID

Policy options and policy development

We provide evidence-based policy advice and support policy implementation and public service delivery.

Examples of our work include:

- Advising government on the Assam Renewable Energy Policy in India
- Supporting Ghana's Ministry of Energy in developing their energy policy
- Helping design and implement energy tax reforms and fiscal subsidies on the Low Carbon Support Programme in Indonesia
- Contributing to the Tanzania Joint Energy Sector Review in 2010, 2011, and 2012 for the Tanzanian Government, SIDA, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation

Organisational reform

We support reform processes, behavioural change, and capacity building across multiple levels of governance. Our work in this area has included:

- Identifying capacity building and technical

assistance requirements under the Energy Sector Training Needs Assessment and Capacity Building Programme in Tanzania

- Completing legal and institutional reviews and providing recommendations for eventual restructure and merger of two key Indonesian green growth investment agencies

Monitoring and evaluation

We carry out independent evaluations, impact assessments, and reviews, and support the development of M&E systems. Amongst other examples, we have:

- Assessed the effectiveness of EU assistance to the Pacific in the energy and climate change sectors

Programme design and delivery

We are able to design and implement demand-driven programmes in the energy sector to meet a wide range of requirements. Our existing projects range from small, discrete reviews and studies to international, multi-year programmes worth in excess of £30 million. The following case studies showcase how our large programmes include both pioneering research and the management and delivery of large-scale policy implementation and capacity-building activities.

Case studies

Energy and Economic Growth (2016-2021)

We are leading the five-year, DFID-funded Energy and Economic Growth (EEG) Applied Research Programme, exploring the links between energy and economic growth in low-income countries across Africa and south Asia. We are bringing together leading academics from across the world to produce high-quality research that speaks directly to the most pressing challenges and questions faced by decision makers in low-income countries. Throughout the process, we are engaging key energy stakeholders and building their capacity to ensure that EEG research findings are translated into positive change.

Low Carbon Support programme in Indonesia (2013-2015)

We achieved significant policy and planning reforms in the flagship DFID-funded Low Carbon Support programme for Indonesia's Ministry of Finance. The three-year programme aimed to promote viable alternatives to carbon-intensive development in Indonesia, one of the top ten emitters of carbon dioxide in the world. We provided technical assistance in designing and implementing tariffs, environmental tax reforms, and fiscal subsidies that incentivise renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable land use management.

Assessing energy sector training needs in Tanzania (2016-2017)

We have supported the Tanzanian Government as it has embarked on an ambitious reform programme in its electricity sector to attract investments and remedy capacity shortages. Tanzanian institutions in the sector face increased responsibilities and new technologies, and they need to develop their capacities to fill current and future gaps. This World Bank-funded programme aims to identify capacity needs and propose a capacity building programme to support the development of the energy sector in the areas of power, oil, and natural gas.

About Oxford Policy Management

Oxford Policy Management is committed to helping low- and middle-income countries achieve growth and reduce poverty and disadvantage through public policy reform. We seek to bring about lasting positive change using analytical and practical policy expertise. Through our global network of offices, we work in partnership with national decision makers to research, design, implement, and evaluate impactful public policy. We work in all areas of social and economic policy and governance, including health, finance, education, climate change, and public sector management. We draw on our local and international sector experts to provide the very best evidence-based support.

Contact us

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For further information about OPM, visit our website www.opml.co.uk

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