



Opportunities for transatlantic energy and climate policy ECN and NREL collaboration

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in the United States and the Energy research Centre of the Netherlands (ECN) in the European Union are working on a joint policy brief on energy and climate policies in the EU and the US. The aim of the brief is to identify opportunities for collaboration between the US and the EU on energy and climate policy.

During the first decade of the 21st century, the United States of America and the European Union have followed notably different climate and energy policies. While the EU adopted the Kyoto Protocol and embraced a domestic cap-and-trade system, the United States focussed on developing low-carbon technology and on energy security policy. Recently, however, the countries' perspectives have been converging. Several regional cap-and-trade initiatives have been deployed in the US and the US House of Representatives has adopted a federal cap-and-trade bill, while the EU is increasingly looking into technology-specific climate and energy policies such as renewable energy targets and portfolio standards.

A lack of in-depth comparative analysis can be observed between politicians and policymakers, but also on the policy researcher level, in the area of climate policy. This significantly hampered transatlantic policy learning. Many misunderstandings still exist around climate and energy policy in the US and the EU. However, some facts are clear: the EU has lower per capita greenhouse gas emissions and stricter targets, while the US has had a focus on energy security policy and has stronger entrepreneurial activity.

The September policy brief will contrast the EU and US contexts and discuss policies on both sides of the Atlantic. The overall aim is to strengthen transatlantic cooperation in the field of energy and climate with the eventual objective of being a stabilising force in the international climate negotiations, towards Copenhagen and beyond.

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