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Title: Inclusive and effective citizen engagement in the energy transition.

Keywords: social networks, energy transition, energy justice, citizen participation

Description:

Participation is widely recognized as essential for the energy transition, yet stakeholders often struggle to engage groups beyond the "usual suspects." By looking beyond individual characteristics like socioeconomic status or income, people's social structures offer a valuable lens for identifying not only vulnerable communities but also the often-overlooked "silent middle." Social network analysis can reveal community structures, helping to bridge the participation gap.

This method provides a case-specific tool for effective participant engagement, supporting those working on climate action and striving for sustainable and just solutions in energy policies. The PhD is part of the EmPowerEd project, where researchers from universities, universities of applied sciences, and TNO collaborate with citizens, businesses, and municipalities to develop and accelerate positive energy districts (PEDs) in practice. A key aspect of a PED is developing sustainable heating and cooling solutions for neighborhoods.

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