

Planning with net-zero scenarios: moving from political ambition to country-level pathways

Virtual Event - December 17, 2020 – 15:00 – 17:30 CET

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) bring together global leaders and experts to discuss the importance of Long-Term Energy Scenarios (LTES) in guiding ambitious climate objectives and how to better align LTES with Paris Agreement targets through Long-term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS).

The '[Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C](#)' published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2018 delivered an important and timely message: the world needs to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 to limit global warming to 1.5°C and limit negative impacts on global ecosystems. Since then, a number of national governments as well as sub-national governments announced to set a time-bound goal to achieve net-zero. In parallel, UNFCCC had set a mechanism – in accordance with Article 4, Paragraph 19 of the Paris Agreement – for its parties to formulate and communicate long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (LT-LEDS, or LTS for short) to operationalise the carbon neutral vision stipulated by the Paris Agreement. To date, 19 countries have submitted LTS to the UNFCCC and many more submissions are expected by the next COP26 in Glasgow¹.

Long-term energy scenarios (LTES) are effective tools for policy makers to agree on how to achieve ambitious goals. While LTES have been used for decades to guide energy policy, the great energy and socio-economic transformation that the net-zero emissions target entails pushes the boundaries of LTES further.

IRENA, through its [LTES Network](#) and [CEM LTES campaign](#), is facilitating dialogue among energy planners and modellers in the government sector who develop and use scenarios. These discussions highlighted that, for the LTES to be truly effective in informing decarbonisation pathways, some of the emerging misalignments between national LTES and global climate scenarios need to be addressed. They include, for example:

- Energy and climate policy planning processes.
- Carbon budgets at sub-national, national, and global level.
- Role of renewable energy and its technical representations in the underlying models (geo-spatial and temporal resolutions).
- Definition of carbon neutrality and the role of carbon sinks, carbon removal and carbon leakage for net-zero targets.

This dialogue event will bring together the *LTES community* and the *climate scenario community* to discuss how the scenario community at large can better elaborate net-zero strategies at a national level, through better alignment of LTES and LT-LEDS.

¹ Examples of countries that have produced official net-zero emission strategies are: Finland, UK, Costa Rica, Chile, Spain and Portugal.

Provisional Agenda (Central European Time)

MC: Pablo Carvajal, Associate Programme Officer, Innovation and Technology Centre, IRENA

Opening remarks	
15:00 – 15:05	Francesco La Camera , Director General, IRENA
15:05 – 15:10	Ovais Sarmad , Deputy Executive Secretary, UNFCCC
Special video address	
15:10-15:20	Teresa Ribera , Deputy Prime Minister for Ecological Transition, Spain
Keynote: LT-LEDS perspectives	
15:20-15:35	Priyadarshi Shukla , Co-chair of Working Group III, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
Findings from LTES Campaign and Network	
15:35-15:45	Dolf Gielen , Director, Innovation and Technology Centre, IRENA
Panel discussion 1: National experience, integrating energy and climate perspectives	
15:45 – 16:20	<p>Chair: Asami Miketa, Senior Programme Officer, Innovation and Technology Centre, IRENA</p> <p>Tim Lord, Director, Clean Growth, Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), United Kingdom</p> <p>Carlos Barria, Head of the Studies and Policies Division, Ministry of Energy, Chile</p> <p>Hans van Steen, Acting Director on Renewables, Research, Innovation and Energy Efficiency, Directorate General for Energy, European Commission</p>
5-minute break	
Panel discussion 2: International experience with net-zero scenarios, aligning long-term low emission development strategies (LT-LEDS) and long-term energy scenarios (LTES)	
16:25-17:00	<p>Chair: Elizabeth Press, Director, Planning and Programme Support, IRENA</p> <p>James Grabert, Director - Mitigation, UNFCCC</p> <p>Kelly Levin, Director of Tracking and Strengthening Climate Action, World Resources Institute</p> <p>Richard Baron, Executive Director, 2050 Pathways Platform</p>
17:00 - 17:20	Round of key takeaways (with panelists from panel discussion 1)
Closing remarks	
17:20 – 17:30	Dolf Gielen , Director, Innovation and Technology Centre, IRENA

*Honorary titles omitted

Please find the [registration link here](#). For further information, please contact us at LTES@irena.org.