

W2 - Renewable energy tech transformation and business modelling for socially just and equitable transitions

7. CHALLENGE-DRIVEN AND RESPONSIBLE INNOVATION

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Track summary: The contemporary challenges of transitioning from fossil fuel-based to renewable energy infrastructures, coupled with the exacerbation of social disparities within and between nations, constitute two paramount concerns in the endeavor to foster a more sustainable global paradigm. Recent scholarship often posits that renewable energy tech transformations have the potential to decentralize power structures and foster positive contributions to social equity. However, empirical evidence underscores the counterargument that renewable energy infrastructure deployment may, conversely, have adverse ramifications on social equity. Among the contributing factors are current business models and market approaches that fail to support equitable and socially just tech transformation. Prior research on energy transitions underscores the risk of perpetuating social disparities, energy injustices, and passive public involvement when adhering to conventional business approaches and technocratic traditions in research and development related to energy transitions. In this track we invite papers which look at, but not limited to particularly the following topics:

- Science-based advancements for tech transformations related to energy generation, storage and delivery considering their potential impact on social equity and justice in the nearby and more faraway future.
- Implications of tech transformations and innovation processes for businesses, citizens, social justice, and societal equity.
- Business models and market approaches/strategies that fit with these changes and that can enhance social justice and social equity.