

Large scale renewables group

28 people

wide group of stakeholders and researchers

4 presentations

Opened up discussion -- who, what, where, when, why, and how

Narrowed discussion onto three themes

Chair: Tony Patt Rapporteur: Kerstin Damerau

Local community benefits

- Why important to discuss: project developers need safe, stable, happy communities to build their plants in, and that may imply that they have to give something to get these.
- Urgent: a credible win/win business model, that provides local communities with fair benefits (money, water, power, etc.) and works for project developers and power consumers.
- Urgent: A meeting of the minds on what are the relative contributions that different organizations can make to the local communities. Minds come from the power sector, but also from international development community, who probably understand these issues better.

Learning

- Why important to discuss: Concentrated solar power (CSP) and large scale renewables in general look a lot better if they can compete on cost. So it is essential to create the conditions for costs to fall the fastest.
- Urgent: Apply theoretical insights now being developed about the drivers of learning (R&D, economies of scale, vertical integration) to develop more strategic policies, taking into account technological cycles or stages.
- Urgent: Leadership on developing common standards for component suppliers (e.g. acceptable tolerances on mirror thickness), to promote competition.

Information and clarity

- Why important to discuss: This is all so new, and there is a great deal of confusion about how projects can be carried forward, with what technologies, which in turn leads to a lack of confidence on the part of investors.
- Urgent: Leadership not just to develop standards, but also guidelines for financing models, transparency on local benefits, and information on power system compatibility.
- Urgent: Partnerships between industry and researchers to integrate knowledge and data and solve a lot of the system integration issues, perhaps through demonstration facilities. Analogy to agricultural universities working with agribusiness and farmers.