

Positive Energy: Trust in Transition

Context & Discussion Paper

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Positive Energy

A Research and Engagement Programme at uOttawa's Institute for Science, Society and Policy

- **Mandate:** to strengthen Canadian energy policy, regulation and decision-making through evidence-based research and analysis, engagement and recommendations for action
- **Approach:** uses the convening power of the university to bring together industry, government, Indigenous leaders, ENGOs and academia; undertakes solution-focused applied research

The First Three Years (PE1: Q2 2015-Q2 2018)

- **Focus:** Public Confidence in Energy Decision-Making

The Next Three Years (PEII: 2018-2021): Trust in Transition

Supporters and Partners (PE1: Public Confidence)

Financial supporters

- Alberta Energy, AER, BCOGC, BCUC, CAPP, CEA, CEPA, CGA, CNSC, Cenovus, Encana, NRCan

Research Collaborators

- Canada West Foundation, Ivey School of Business and multiple scholars (uOttawa, Queen's, UofT, Clarkson, UofR)

Polling and Event Partners

- Nanos Research, The Economic Club of Canada

Media Partners

- The Globe & Mail

PE1: Research Approach/Products

**Define the
problem**

**Research
Streams**

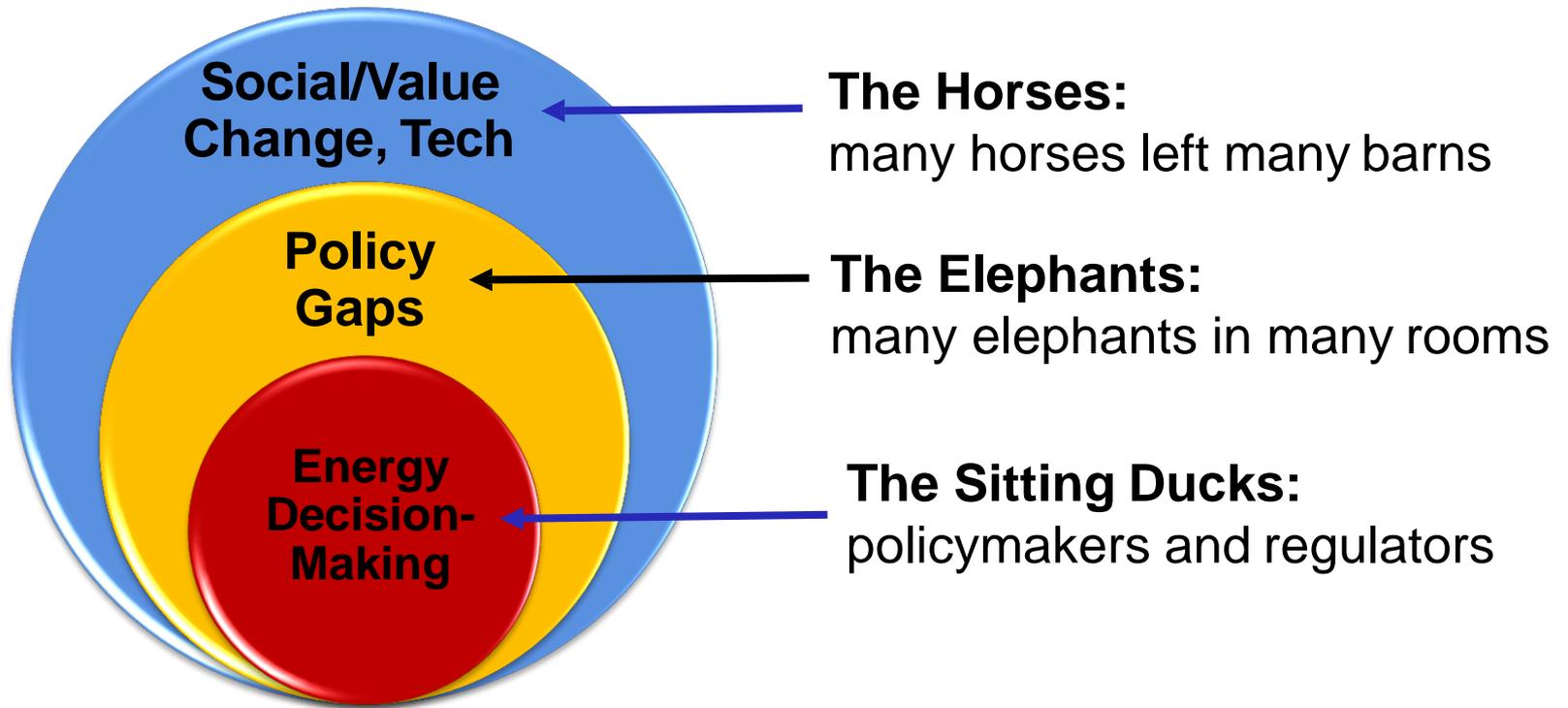
**Public
Confidence:
why now?**

**Communities
(project dm)**

**Public Authorities
(energy dm)**

Public Confidence: Why Now?

No single reason (*System Under Stress* report)



Research Stream One: Communities

What drives local community (dis)satisfaction with energy project decision-making?

- Interim Report spring 2016: *Fair Enough*
- Final report fall 2016: *A Matter of Trust*
(Deep dive into six case studies across the country – qualitative and quantitative)



Stream Two: Public Authorities

Public confidence in the overall energy decision system (policy/regulation)

- It's a system, parts are interconnected and failure to see system as system has generated/exacerbated challenges
- Discussion paper & high level workshop spring 2016
- Three areas of stress/strain: policy/regulatory relations; balancing local/higher level interests; engagement, information and capacity
- Discussion papers + workshops on each stress in 2017



Growing Influence & Credibility

- Growing number of funders, media coverage, speaking requests, recognition of 'go-to' status
- Traction with policymakers
 - Energy & Mines Ministers Conferences 2015 and 2016 (presentations to ministers, planning, engagement, Departmental Achievement Award, etc.)
 - NEB Expert Panel commissioned study
 - Master of Ceremonies for Min Carr's fall 2017 Generation Energy symposium
- Traction with regulators: federal, provincial, CAMPUT
- Traction with legislators: parliamentary committees
- Traction with industry, think tanks and ENGOs
- International recognition: WFER, IGU, IEA, etc.

Overview of Research Findings

Importance of a clear long term energy vision

- reduce project-based opposition

Need to balance/bridge/align local and regional/provincial/national interests

- meaningful engagement/involvement/capacity & competitiveness
- cumulative effects management

Decision-making system not broken but needs informed reform

- strengthen policy/regulatory relations
- engagement, information and capacity

PE2: Trust in Transition

Focus: trust in energy transition decision-making

Starting premises:

- ETDM different than energy decision-making: long term, policy driving the bus (need to map ETDM)
- Decision-makers underestimating: the scale of change required and the role of public trust in transition (its importance and evolving nature)

Role of planning workshop

- Develop the key research questions to focus on over next three years (questions, not answers)
- Develop convening and engagement strategy (be creative!)

Proposed Research Streams

1. Role of local

- Municipalities and Indigenous communities: importance and potential underestimated

2. Role of oil, gas & nuclear sectors

- Polarized debates, lack of forum for evidence-based discussion of the issues

3. Social acceptance of technologies

- Importance of trust in energy transition technologies underestimated

4. Futures research and public trust

- Futures research does not integrate trust

Trust in Transition: Next Steps

Short-term (to fall 2018): Problem Framing

- Mapping ETDM to identify/understand gaps (inform/validate with surveys), policy primers on priority topic areas
- Kick-off conference (fall 2018), fundraise

Medium-term (to fall 2019): Solution Seeking

- Finalize ETDM mapping
- Launch research and engagement streams for each challenge area (begin to provide recommendations, inform/validate with surveys)

Long-term (to summer 2021): Solution Validation

- Provide final recommendations (could include pilots)
- Final conference fall 2021