

Country Project

Fall 2018

1 Introduction

Many organizations (including governments, militaries, and corporations) monitor the state of a country's energy system. There are any number of reasons for this, including the need for new energy policy, determining the weakness of an ally's or adversary's energy infrastructure, and considering the benefits of distributed-generation. Some of these organizations will employ a team of energy researchers to conduct the analysis.

To conduct such an analysis, the energy analyst must be familiar with the country's energy system and any related (energy) policies. This information can be obtained from, for example, government documents, on-site analysis, third-party analysis, or previous experience. In all cases, access to the relevant data is paramount, keeping in mind the limitations of the data.

This project is to be an analysis of the energy system of an OECD member country. The analysis should have a long-term target date of 2030 or 2050 and take into account issues such as, but not limited to, climate change, global geopolitics, and demographics.

2 Focus

Broadly speaking, the analysis should focus on:

- The energy system:
 - What is the recent history of the country's energy system?
 - What are the energy sources and services?
 - What is the state of the energy system?
 - What are the policies for the country's future energy system?
- Risks to the energy system:
 - What are the country's internal and external risks to the energy security of its energy system?
 - Is the country resilient to these risks?
 - Are threats, such as extreme weather events and cyber-attacks being addressed?
 - What is the country doing to adapt its energy system to existing and new risks?

3 Data sources

The analysis should be based on data sources, preferably trusted. Possible sources include:

- National datasets
- CIA World Factbook, IAEA, IEA, EIA, World Bank
- Guardian, New York Times, Russia Today, BBC Monitoring
- Academic journals

4 Possible countries

Any member of the OECD can be used in your analysis. Please let me know your choice. In the event of duplicate choices, it will be a case of first-come, first-served.

Keep in mind that although member states often publish policy documents and data in English, the data might not be as complete as the home language. This can limit the usefulness of the analysis. Consequently, it might be advisable to review what data is available before selecting a country.

Note as well that federal systems, such as found in Canada and the United States, may have radically different energy systems and policies at the regional/state/canton/provincial (i.e., sub-federal) level. You should take this into account if you select such a country.

5 Requirements

There are two requirements:

1. A report on your analysis of your chosen country. The report should be between 3,000 and 6,000 words in length and include graphs, tables, and bibliography. Longer reports will be accepted. Please convert the report to PDF before submitting it electronically.
2. A 20-minute presentation based on the key findings of your analysis at the end of term.

6 Marking

The report will be marked on the thoroughness and clarity of the analysis.

7 Dates

Available: 12 September 2018

Presentations: 27 and 28 November 2018 and possibly 4 December 2018

Report due: 7 December 2018