



**Grid development: how to
constructively engage stakeholders**

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Theresa Schneider, Renewables Grid Initiative

2009



20%

GHG reductions
from 1990


20%

Renewable
energy

20%

Energy savings
cp. with BAU

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Third Energy Package: Unbundling

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Renewables Grid Initiative

“We want a grid built in time that supports the further steady growth of renewables while respecting environmental objectives and people's concerns.”



“How can we build acceptance for grid expansion?”

- Transparent communication
- Early stakeholder involvement
- Explanation of the need
- Consultation on siting plans

2018



Geopgraphical scope

European organisations



CAN
CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK
Europe

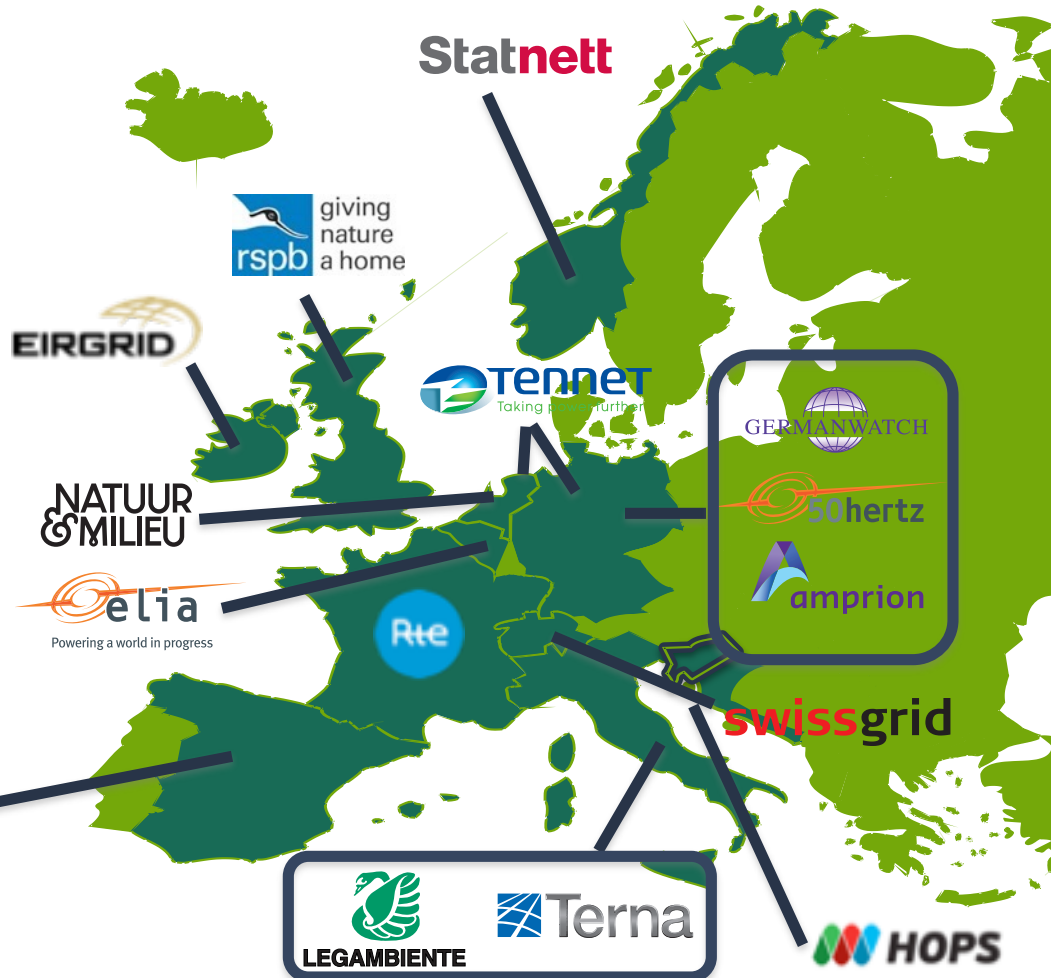
WWF

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Statnett

giving nature a home
rspb

EIRGRID

Tennet
Taking it further

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GERMANWATCH

50hertz

amprion

swissgrid

LEGAMBIENTE

Terna

HOPS

Have we asked the wrong question?

“How can we improve acceptance for grid expansion?”

- Frames public as passive, decision-makers as active
- Calls to increase public “understanding”, frames decision-makers as “knowing”, public as “not knowing”
- Hard for decision-makers and public to meet as equals in this framing
- Implies grid expansion is a given factor

“Acceptance” = foregone conclusions

- Public may question legitimacy of entire process: “decide, announce, defend”
 - “What we say doesn’t matter. You’re going to build anyway”
 - Talk of compensation etc. could backfire: “you’re just trying to pay us off”
- Participation means involvement from the outset

Increase acceptance vs. increase participation

- All parties now meet as citizens with different, but equally valued expertise
 - Grid operators have sector expertise
 - Policy-makers know legislation
 - Public has local & general knowledge
- Experts show willingness to learn from public



Some "no-brainers"?

- Explain the purpose for engagement
- Explain how it will influence the decision
- Assure that you follow up
- Seek real dialogue; avoid long breaks
- Identify, make allies and go out with them
- Be coherent
- Be ready to adjust the process
- And: it takes time to see effects of actions taken

Resources to get inspired

BESTGRID project



European Grid Report

Good practice database



Good practice of the year award



Tell me and I forget

Teach me and I might remember

Involve me and I learn

Involve me in a way we learn together

Thank you!



Theresa Schneider
+49 30 7677 19455

theresa@renewables-grid.eu
www.twitter.com/renewablesgrid
www.renewables-grid.eu