

Tamil Nadu Sustainable Energy Transformation Dialogues

தமிழ்நாடு மின் துறை: வளங்குன்றா வளர்ச்சி பாதைகள்

Nov 17 – 18, 2022
Taj Connemara, Chennai

Tamil Nadu Sustainable Energy Transformation Dialogues (TN-SET Dialogues) is a two-day event led by a consortium that includes WRI India, Auroville Consulting (AVC) and Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG) where we discuss emerging trends and attempt to gain insights into the energy transition trajectory of Tamil Nadu.

As one of India's industrial powerhouses and a leader in renewable energy (RE), TN is on the cusp of an energy transition. The state is endowed with high insolation and wind resource potential and can soon promote RE as the main source of energy. TN is also tackling climate change proactively with initiatives like Green-Tamil Nadu Mission, TN Wetland Mission, TN Solar Policy 2019; and TN EV Policy 2019.

We convene just as COP27 ends at Sharm el-Sheikh giving us an opportunity to reflect on Tamil Nadu's role in India's just announced low emissions pathways in Egypt. The state's ambitious RE targets and clean energy measures are in step with India's long-term vision. However, for the state to transform the sector we will need to go beyond progress in RE and at the very minimum ensure it leads to integrated clean energy for the state. With an expected boom in power demand, and new and emerging clean energy technologies, long-term environmental and financial sustainability are issues that require further focus.

At the *TN-SET Dialogues* we would have multi-stakeholder sessions sharing views on TN's long-term vision on decarbonization and the immediate steps being taken as the state attempts to meet its growing energy demand in a sustainable manner.



Agenda

Day 1: Nov 17, 2022

Venue: Taj Connemara, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

9:30 AM to 4 PM

9:30 - 10:00 <i>30 mins</i>	Registration & Tea	
10:00 - 10:10 <i>10 mins</i>	Introductory remarks and context setting	Bharath Jairaj Executive Director, Energy, WRI India
Session 1: Navigating Tamil Nadu's Decarbonization Trails		
<p>Tamil Nadu's current annual power demand is around 95,000 MUs, with demand expected to grow multifold due to heavy Commercial & Industrial (C&I) consumer mix. Considering the nation's commitment to reduce emissions, Tamil Nadu must prudently plan for future procurement as it plans for RE and thermal capacity additions and plausible retirements of aged-coal plants. This session will share findings of the research on how the state can plan for future generation mix focusing on potential decarbonization pathways to support India's goals toward a low carbon future.</p>		
10:10 - 11:00 <i>50 mins</i>	Address by Chief Guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vikram Kapur, I.A.S. Additional Chief Secretary, Dept. of Planning and Development, Govt of TN • Supriya Sahu, I.A.S. Additional Chief Secretary, Dept. of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Govt of TN ** • V. Arun Roy, I.A.S. Secretary, Dept. of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of TN
11:00 - 11:10 <i>10 mins</i>	Launch of Working Paper by Chief Guests	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integration Of An Energy Modelling Tool in a State's Power Sector Planning Process – A Tamil Nadu Case Study 2. Pathways to Decarbonisation – Modelling Tamil Nadu's Power Sector Decarbonization 	
11:10 - 11:15 <i>5 mins</i>	Vote of Thanks by Sandhya Sundararagavan, Lead, Energy, WRI India	
11:15 - 11:35 <i>20 mins</i>	WRI India and AVC presentation on Tamil Nadu's future energy mix and decarbonization pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sripathi Anirudh Program Associate, Energy, WRI India • Umesh Ramamoorthi Senior Researcher and Consultant - Utilities, Energy, and Water, Auroville Consulting



11:35 – 11:45 <i>10 mins</i>	~Tea/Coffee~	
Session 2: Ensuring Financial Sustainability of Tamil Nadu’s Electricity Sector		
<p>A significant share of TN’s electricity needs is managed by the state-run distribution and transmission utilities. Functioning as the state’s single distribution company, TANGEDCO has accumulated a debt of around INR 1 Lakh Cr. and has resorted to increase tariffs across all consumer categories after 8 years. This session intends to hear experts’ opinions from the utility, regulatory body and civil society organization on key parameters / levers that can improve the financial performance of the utility and plans to keep it debt-free.</p>		
11:45 – 12:00 <i>15 mins</i>	Special Address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Manoharan Director (Tariff), Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC)
12:00 – 13:00 <i>60 mins</i>	Panel Discussion followed by Q&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rajeswari Chief Financial Controller, Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Company (TANGEDCO) ** • P. Muthusamy Former Director Engineering, Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) • T. Ramakrishnan Senior Journalist & Associate Editor, The Hindu • Rahul Balaji Advocate, Madras High Court • Aarti Khosla Founder and Director, Climate Trends • Ann Josey Fellow, Prayas Energy (Group) • Sandhya Sundararagavan Lead, Energy, WRI India (Moderator)
13:00 – 14:00 <i>60 mins</i>	~Lunch~	
Session 3: Tamil Nadu’s Energy-Tech Transition		
<p>Tamil Nadu has been an early adopter of renewable technologies boasting India’s largest installed wind power capacity; an ambitious 3.6 GW rooftop solar target by 2023 and 25 GW RE addition target by 2030. With COP 27’s focus on innovative clean technologies, the state must explore technological developments including offshore wind, small wind turbine and green hydrogen using solar/wind</p>		



<p>power technologies. This session will share research findings, followed by a panel discussion to hear views from industry experts and government stakeholders on the techno-economic feasibility, challenges, and opportunities of integrating these new technologies in Tamil Nadu's energy transition.</p>		
<p>14:00 - 14:15 <i>15 mins</i></p>	<p>Context setting & Presentation by WRI India</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaisakh Suresh Kumar Project Associate, Energy, WRI India
<p>14:15 - 15:45 <i>75 mins</i></p>	<p>Panel discussion followed by Q&A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ravi Segal Strategic Technical Consultant, EnTraCon Services • Ramakrishnan Gopalakrishna General Manager Business Development, Wartsilä Energy • Kiran Kumar Alla Senior Director, Plug Power • S. Yuvaraj Moorthy Chief Technology Officer, GreenNext - Schneider Electric India • Kajol Senior Manager, Energy, WRI India • Amit Kumar Senior Fellow, WRI India (Moderator)
<p>15:45 - 16:00 <i>15 mins</i></p>	<p>Closing Remarks: Martin Scherfler, Co-Founder, AVC</p>	

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**Day 2: Nov 18, 2022**

Venue: Taj Connemara, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
10 AM to 3 PM

Session 1: RE power – From Consumer’s lens		
As power tariffs rise steeply for consumers across TN, we must consider their views on challenges and opportunities to integrate distributed RE in their consumption profile. This session will share innovative tariff mechanisms like green tariffs, green power open access, alternate procurement models, and consumer awareness efforts to promote energy efficiency and RE at both city and state levels.		
10:00 - 10:15 <i>15 mins</i>	Welcome Remarks	Toine Van Megen Co-founder, Auroville Consulting
10:15 - 10:45 <i>30 mins</i>	Address by Chief Guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pooja Kulkarni, I.A.S. MD & CEO, Guidance, Govt. of TN ** • Simranjeet Singh Kahlon, I.A.S. Commissioner, Madurai Corporation, Govt. of TN
10:45 - 11:00 <i>15 mins</i>	Presentation by WRI India on green power procurement model	Deepak Krishnan Associate Director, Energy, WRI India
11:00 - 11:15 <i>15 mins</i>	Presentation by CAG on collective prosumerism	Vishnu Rao Senior Researcher, Consumer Protection, Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG)
11:15 - 11:30 <i>15 mins</i>	~Tea/Coffee Break~	
11:30 - 13:00 <i>90 mins</i>	Panel Session Followed by Q&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G. Sundarrajan Poovulagin Nanbargal • M.S. Sampath President, Madurai District Tiny & Small-Scale Industries Association (MADITSSIA) • S. Venkatachalam Member, The Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) • Vinuta Gopal Chief Executive Officer, Asar Social Impact Pvt Limited • Priyanka Thirumurthy Regional Engagement Associate, Climate Trends (Moderator)
13:00 - 13:05	Closing Remarks: Bharath Jairaj , Executive Director, Energy, WRI India	
13:05 - 15:00	~ Lunch ~	

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