

solutions more democratic we can reduce energy costs, stem the tide of climate change and make our environment healthier. Perhaps, an “all hands on deck” approach will achieve the goals than the current “leaders’ hands on deck”.

Conclusion

The focus of this Keynote Address is the challenge of climate change and the prospects of energy democracy. What I have tried to show here is that the energy democracy is not just something existing only as an idea. It is already happening. In 1988, the total capacity of decentralized combined heat and power system that Demark had in the West Danish power grid was 150MW, and total wind was 100MW. By 2004, decentralized CHP has increased to 1,600MW and wind to 2,400MW. This was due to implementation of policies which reduced risk for investors in new technologies while giving CHP, renewables and waste priority access to the grid.²⁶

The same thing happened in the Netherlands when CHP capacity doubled between 1990 and 99 through a range of investment subsidies and a guarantee that surplus power from CHP would be purchased.²⁷ In the case of Germany, it has made itself much more secure, safe and sustainable by greening its economic and energy production. 50.6 percent of total electricity demand was met by solar alone in 2012. Using smart environmental policies, Germany was able to level the playing field so that small renewable enterprises can compete effectively.

Regulations, commercial conditions and technology have a major role to play in energy democracy. They will dictate for any given nation the path to success or failure of energy democracy. Community trust is essential, so also a conducive environment that will attract and encourage provision of energy efficiency financing, and opportunities for communities and different stakeholders to be able to engage in decision-making and implementation efforts. It is the clarion call for the involvement of all in meeting the energy emergency.

²⁶ Tech-Wise (2002), Review of Current EU and MS Electricity Policy and Regulation – Denmark, available at http://www.electricitymarkets.info/sustelnet/docs/wp2/wp2_denmark-sc.pdf.

²⁷ International Energy Agency (2002), Distributed Generation in Liberalized Electricity Markets, available at <http://www.iea.org/textbase/npdf/free/2000/distributed2002.pdf>.