

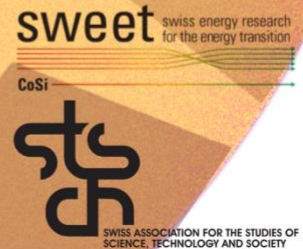
# SSH Energy 2026

Situating energy communities  
of practice, influence & place

16 & 17 June



Organised by the Cultural Studies of  
Science and Technology Group, ETH Zurich



The [6<sup>th</sup> Swiss Social Sciences and Humanities Energy Research Workshop \(SSH Energy 2026\)](#) opens a forum for researchers, modellers, practitioners, and policymakers to critically reflect on what connects us as an SSH community, and how we shape discourses that support a just energy transition. Integrating social sciences and humanities into energy research and policymaking is vital, but the approaches by which this integration is achieved warrant careful consideration, given their potential to shape transformative change.

The SSH Energy workshop is framed within the project "[Co-Evolution and Coordinated Simulation of the Swiss Energy System and Swiss Society](#)" (CoSi), funded by the Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SWEET programme). CoSi consolidates a platform for exchange to link various disciplines in a co-creation process with stakeholders to co-design sustainable and innovative energy transition approaches.

The 2026 edition builds on the [Swiss Federal Office of Energy's](#) recognition of energy communities to support the aim of increased renewable energy. We do this by situating and exploring energy communities defined across three key areas. Firstly, *communities of practice*, involving research and implementation processes. Secondly *communities of influence* which delve into policymaking, in

relation to the axis of power, justice, and agency. Thirdly, *communities of place* are defined by the place-based, lived experiences of the energy transition. We invite participants to share perspectives and insights on the discourses, societal implications, and transformation processes these communities engage in and how to support the transition to a more sustainable and equitable energy system. We invite contributions based on three modes of interactions within these communities:

- 1) **Through which methods and tools can the integration of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches into energy communities of practice, influence, and place steer meaningful change?**
- 2) **How can Science and Technology Studies shift our focus on energy communities to an interrogative mode of reflexivity on positionality, normativity, and power?**
- 3) **How can we create hands-on domains for project or topic specific discussions, knowledge sharing, and co-creation?**

We welcome scholars from social sciences, humanities, arts and inter- and transdisciplinary research, energy modellers, practitioners, policymakers, and early career researchers to engage in these discussions.

## Important Dates

30.01.26 – 20.03.26 Abstract submission | 02.04.26 Notice of acceptance | 02.04.26 – 29.05.26 Registration

### Aims

- Strengthen the SSH Energy research community around energy communities of practice and support early career researchers.
- Create an open dialogue setting for collective reflexivity on SSH energy research and policymaking.
- Exploring inter- and transdisciplinary methods and tools for integrating SSH perspectives into energy communities.

### Call for contributions

We invite participants and contributors from all fields of research related to the Swiss energy transition. Contributions that integrate an SSH perspective or contributions from SSH scholars will get priority. Please indicate how your submission aligns with the streams and questions as well as the contribution format (see below). We have a limited number of slots for each format as we also intend to prioritise opening plenty of space for discussions and informal exchanges.

### Streams and questions

We aim at bringing together case studies from **Swiss and international projects and programmes** to co-create new conceptualizations of energy initiatives **fruitfully integrating the arts, humanities, and social sciences with inter- or transdisciplinary approaches**. We invite participants to explore topics ranging from and expanding the following:

- **Communities of influence:** Which communities shape energy transitions across different scales, who holds power and who has agency? How do they redistribute the transition's benefits and burdens among different groups?
- **Justice in energy research:** How are justice or well-being-oriented frameworks shaping energy research? How different justice frameworks are being used to guide equitable policymaking?
- **Power and asymmetries:** Counterbalancing (de)politicization of energy research and modelling. How can we embrace the public role of SSH in energy research in democratizing the transition process?
- **Co-producing energy knowledge:** What role do stakeholders inside and outside communities of practice play creating energy transition knowledge? How can inclusivity and transparency be ensured?
- **Methods and tools** for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaborations in energy research; what works best (cases and practices), how can we use it (specific tools and methodologies) and at which part of the research process to make it the most impactful (problem framing, analysis, dissemination)?
- **Culture-focused and social aspects in energy transitions:** What are the potentials of integrating cultural approaches to energy research? What is the role of culture, values and emotions in shaping energy behaviours and policies?
- **Arts in energy research:** What is the role of the arts in energy research and how can it ensure inclusion and hope? How art makes the transition more relatable, innovative, and inspire collective action?

## Contribution formats

**Paper presentations** limited to 15 minutes. Convenors will group presentations into sessions lasting 90 minutes. Sessions feature multiple presentations with discussion time. Please submit a title and abstract (250 words).

**Workshops** host 75–90 minutes workshop session in a cozy setting with around 7 participants. Workshop formats must be hands-on, and allow participants to explore a method, tool, or concept. Please add a brief outline of the activity and materials needed (250 words).

**Installations** accompanied by explanations or questions, present complex ideas, or critical questions in an aesthetically compelling way to encourage dialogue on SSH Energy research. Surprise participants with your out-of-the-box exhibits! For installations, contact Stephanie Briers to confirm feasibility.

**Poster sessions** offer a space to pitch a variety of topics around printed posters (150 words).

**Closed meetings** offer a deep-dive session based on specific communities of practice. Propose your session and invite whom you want.

## Important information

The workshop will take place in-person at ETH Zurich. Online participation is not possible. Participants with no presentations are also welcome to attend!

**Capacity:** 80 places, first come first serve. Priority given to contributors.

**Fees:** free of charge for all participants

**Venue:** ETH Zurich, [HG building](#), PolySnack ([HG F 32](#)). Rämistrasse 101, 8092 Zürich, Switzerland

**Contact:** Dr Stephanie Briers, CSTS Group, TdLab ([stephanie.briers@usys.ethz.ch](mailto:stephanie.briers@usys.ethz.ch)) or ([ssh-energy@ethz.ch](mailto:ssh-energy@ethz.ch))

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16.06.26–17.06.26: SSH Energy Workshop

## Organizing committee

The 6<sup>th</sup> Swiss Social Sciences and Humanities Energy Research Workshop (SSH Energy 2026) is organised by the [Cultural Studies of Science and Technology Group](#) (CSTS, Transdisciplinarity Lab), ETH Zurich. It is sponsored by the SWEET COsi Consortium and the Swiss Association for the Studies of Science, Technology and Society (STS-CH).

- PD Dr. Bianca Vienni-Baptista (CSTS Group Lead, ETH Zurich)
- Dr. Stephanie Briers (CSTS Group, ETH Zurich)
- Konstanty Ramotowski (CSTS Group, ETH Zurich)
- Rebecca Weber (CSTS Group, ETH Zurich)
- Mehjabee Mattra (CSTS Group, ETH Zurich)

**Submit abstract [here!](#)**