# Energy policy-making in a time of rapidly changing technologies and social preferences

DECC, 17 May 2016 catherine.mitchell@exeter.ac.uk



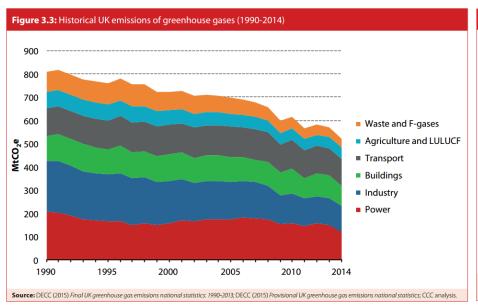


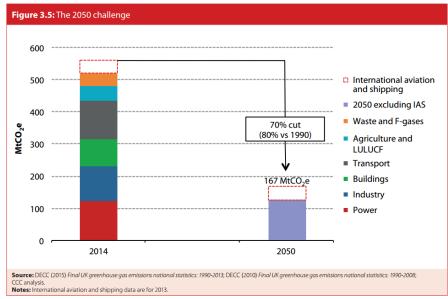


### **Overview**

- The energy world is undergoing rapid change:
  - Energy technologies (supply, demand and operation) are decentralising
  - New means, and requirements, of system operation and integration are occurring
  - Global investment patterns are moving to RE from FF
  - Social preferences and ownership
  - Public policy momentum around the world to 'clean' away from 'dirty'
- There are considerable energy system challenges which are difficult to meet with current governance system BUT opportunities to capture as well
- There has been lots of change in some countries but needs to spread those changes to more countries, and at a quicker rate
- GB has a governance system which is not fit for purpose and has to be altered to provide value for the 'new' ways of doing things
- If the governance changes (institutions and the sources of value within the system) then economics and costs of transformation change and opportunities are opened up – the NY REV argument

# What's the problem? How well have we done over the last 25 years?

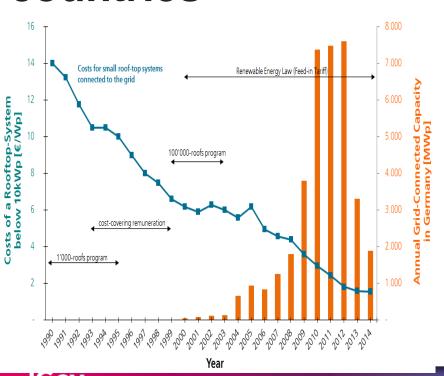




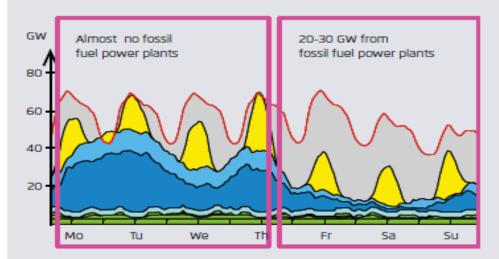
Source: CCC (2015) <a href="https://documents.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Committee-on-Climate-Change-Fifth-Carbon-Budget-Report.pdf">https://documents.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Committee-on-Climate-Change-Fifth-Carbon-Budget-Report.pdf</a>

Current Challenges to be met	Opportunities of Change to be Captured
<ul> <li>To transfer from the current energy system to a decarbonised on         <ul> <li>requires 'new' energy system which implies new roles (institutions, utilities, customers, providers, intermediaries, business models, etc), new governance and regulatory environment, new value propositions; speeding up</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	New technologies (supply, demand, ICT) enable a more efficient energy system through greater coordination: utilise infrastructure assets more fully; reduce total infrastructure needs; and reduce costs
Infrastructure (including ICT) has to be upgraded, and paid for	Ability to meet customer wishes and develop new business models to do so
Need to keep prices as low as possible for customers	New institutional ops to keep prices as low as possible for customers
Have to keep up with change: decentralisation, rapidly changing technology costs, system economics and operation enabled by ICT, customer and civil society preferences, varying incumbent v new entrant wishes	•Ability to be more resilient to change – whether weather, technologies, customer preferences, policy requirements – and to be more flexible and nimble
•Altering where value currently is in system to where we need it to be to enable innovation	
Attracting appropriate investment	

# Germany is an example of change & where opportunities have been captured - but still only in a few countries



#### Demand for Fossil Fuel Power Plants in 2022: Example of a Week in August





















## Speeding up GHG reduction requires transformative governance

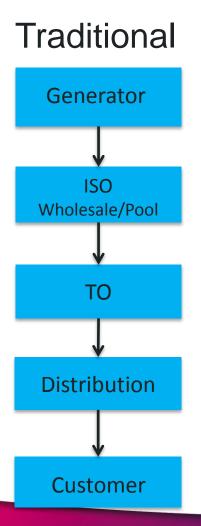
- There has (arguably) been very few transformative energy policies / governance since 1970's:
  - RE and CHP policies in Denmark in response to oil crises in 1970s
  - PURPA Act in CA in 1970's again in response to oil crises
  - FITs in Germany in 1990/1;
  - Nuclear phase out in Germany?
  - NEM and / or DSR in some US States?
- Leading to structural, dynamic change which better meets policy goals and society's preferences

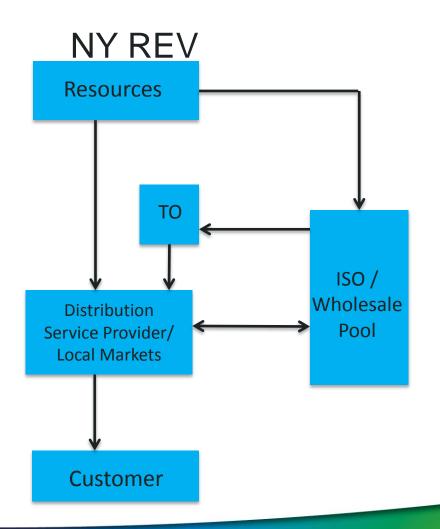
### What characterises those transformative measures?

- The decision-makers understood the energy system challenges they were dealing with at the time, then
  - Knowingly dealt with the current challenges
  - Enabled more choice for customers (all types) / new entrants, and thereby gave them more influence
  - Overcoming inertia
  - Kept up with technological and social change and preferences
  - Assessed cost/benefits in ways beyond straight CBA
  - Enabled the means to capture the new opportunities ie provided value or removed barriers

# Is the NY State governance reform the latest example of Transformative Governance? It appears to meet the challenges. Too early to say? http://projects.exeter.ac.uk/igov/new-thinking-distribution-

service-providers/



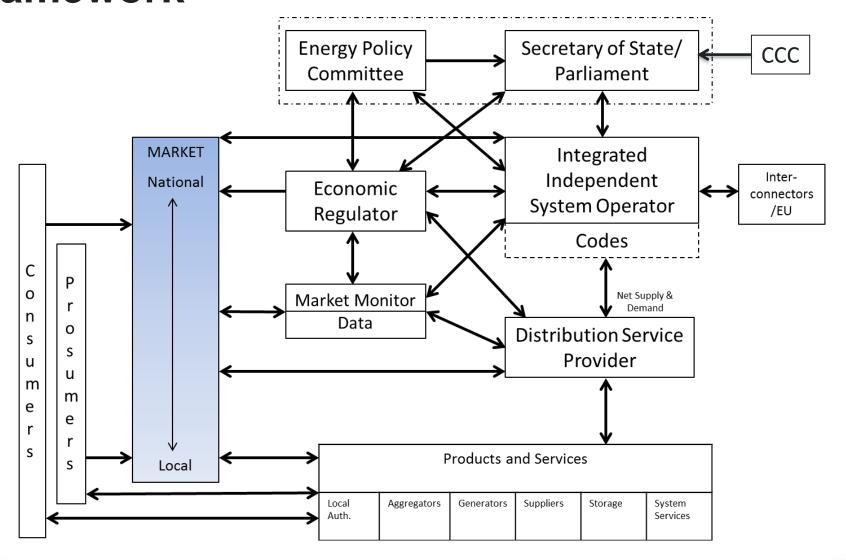


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# The key new 'value' enablers for decarbonised, affordable and secure GB energy system

- 1. A fit-for-purpose governance framework
  - Deals with challenges, opens up opportunities, provides value where it should be, is flexible
  - Sets framework rather than piecemeal development
- 2. ICT as enabler of system operation and management
- 3. New regulatory basis ie a move to performance based regulation where majority of DSP revenue is related meeting various performance requirements
  - PBR of the DSP is the new transformational value proposition

### The IGov Fit-for-Purpose Governance Framework

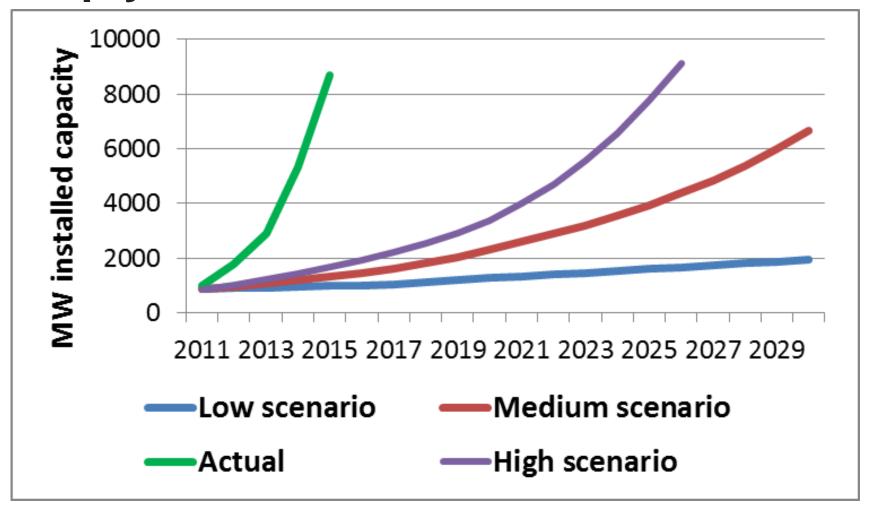


# What does this mean for GB energy (and RE) policy?

- Governments should always try to be transformative
- We need to do the sums but NY REV argument is that the restructuring is cheaper than BAU so GB can think about doing things differently
  - http://projects.exeter.ac.uk/igov/new-thinking-restructuring-gbsenergy-institutions/
- Greater governance direction / strategic framework enabling a move back to markets, and meeting goals
  - It is NOT that support is unnecessary but returns to more traditional innovation arguments
  - Strategic framework not piecemeal
  - Bottom Up not Top Down system optimisation
- Ensure value goes to the things we want

# THANKYOU http://projects.exeter. ac.uk/igov/

# Solar and storage – glass half full or empty?



Source: Lockwood (2016): <a href="http://projects.exeter.ac.uk/igov/new-thinking-solar-surprise-revisited/">http://projects.exeter.ac.uk/igov/new-thinking-solar-surprise-revisited/</a>