

4. Disagreement on responsibility between the developed and developing world to transform the way energy is produced and used.

By Mats Van Kleef

There are significant differences in both the resources and mentality of developing and developed countries. This makes it very difficult in addressing global challenges such as climate change. It is necessary for different regions to take appropriate responsibility to help the world to develop sustainably.

Dr. Mark Jaccard called climate change a "mega collective action problem". Since action to reduce GHG emissions is for the global good, there are opportunities for countries to get a free ride. Because the problem is complex and impacts are delayed, countries are not motivated to act quickly. The perception of equity based on a wide variety of standards makes it very difficult to come to a common agreement.

For developed countries it is essential to lead by example and develop towards a more renewable energy mix. Low hanging fruit and reduction of waste and losses are often cost saving while minimizing environmental impacts. Furthermore, the right incentives and regulations must be in place to work towards a more sustainable economy. These issues are addressed in more detail in Unsolvable Energy Problem #8 and #10.

Developing countries must take a similar role to ensure that their new infrastructure is sustainable. With the historic development of the developed world, many delegates have argued that developing countries have the right to strive for a similar way of life at a similar low cost. If so, and if the developed countries would like developing countries to follow sustainable development, it would be necessary for developed countries to provide incentives financially and technologically. Scott Tudman spoke to this in his keynote address on Energy Poverty. There are great opportunities for microfinance in developing countries to

assist in localized and sustainable energy distribution. This is especially relevant to
Unsolvable Energy Problem #1.

As you can see, the solutions to this problem of taking responsibility vary by region. These responsibilities are interconnected with many of the other Unsolvable Energy Problems in this document. As each region takes care of its own problems they can simultaneously address this issue of responsibility. It's important for these regions to keep the global context in mind.

