

European Technology Platforms Conference 2010

Workshop A2

Interconnecting the water and energy cycles

Session 3, 11 May, 16h30 - 18h00

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Focus

Water is used to generate energy and energy is used to provide water. The water and energy nexus needs to be understood by all players since it is crucial in tackling global challenges including climate change. Water and energy solutions can be found in improved efficiencies, technology development and policies.

Water savings and energy savings are strongly connected. That's why water will play a key role in adapting to climate change and reducing our energy consumption. Rising voices claim that water efficiency efforts can save substantial energy at lower cost, and faster, than new supply. Interconnecting the water and energy cycles presents opportunities for fast, cost-effective reductions in emissions and energy consumption.

Amongst a variety of aspects of the water/energy nexus (biofuels, renewables, alternative water sources, appliance standards...) this workshop will elaborate on the synergies that have already been identified and discussed by current ETP collaboration; and open the floor to new possibilities for research and innovation in this field, across a range of technologies and energy sources.

1. Objectives

- Overall, to identify how water/energy synergies can be better integrated into research and innovation cooperation across technologies. In particular:
- Identify important framework conditions.
- Identify the stakeholders that need to be involved.
- Describe the potential for coordinated action.
- Draw up a list of possible steps forward.

2. Speakers

- *General introduction on water/energy synergies*
Karen Hassey, Australian National University / Université Libre de Bruxelles
Leader of a proposal for a new COST action in water and energy research.
- *The perspective from the water supply industry*
Harald Schneider, CEO Innsbruck utilities
Responsibilities and opportunities for the water utilities (based on the report: water, energy and climate change – a contribution of the business community, world business council for sustainable development, 2009)
- *The perspective from energy efficient construction*
Stefano Carosio, D'Appolonia

3. Chair and rapporteur

- Chair: **Steve Kaye**, leader of the Water supply and sanitation ETP Task Force "Water and Energy"

➤ Rapporteur: **Panagiotis Balabanis**, European Commission