

Community ownership and renewable energy -a case of Iida city in Nagano prefecture-

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1. Background and objective of my research

Although the ratio of using renewable energy (RE) in energy supply has been very low in Japan, recently, the numbers of RE projects increase, especially after the Great East Japan Earthquake and starting FIT. But there are some problems. People can't understand how to combine renewable energy projects with community development. Therefore many problems happen by RE projects. So, this paper will explain how to promote community development by RE projects.

2. Research methods

In this paper, the author did two things. First, from prior researches, the author explained that present RE projects have several problems. Then the author tries to show better ways to realize better projects of RE. But prior researches tend to focus on consensus forming process from the viewpoint of company or on evaluate policies about renewable energy. Therefore the author could not explain how to make sustainable city with multiple stake holders by doing RE project. Then, second the author conducted research on RE projects of Iida city in Nagano prefecture to explain how to realize sustainable development by RE. The author did internship in Iida city and collect data of RE in Iida, and then meeting with official staff of Iida city. From these data, the author analyzes the RE projects that will make Iida city sustainable community.

3. Result

The author can show two things to make better RE projects from analyzing prior research.

- 1) In Japan, companies (or governments) sometimes conflict with citizens because they don't communicate enough with each other in project process. Therefore to do RE project, you have to communicate with local people who have various thoughts.
- 2) In Germany and Denmark, local people try to do RE projects. These projects will be accepted more easily by community and will make sustainable city.

The author can show two things to make better RE projects from analyzing Iida city projects.

- 1) People, who want to try to do RE project, have to decide reasons why they do try to do RE. If you won't share reasons why you try RE, RE project will not be accepted from grass-roots. RE have social aspects.
- 2) When you try to do RE projects, you have to cooperate with multiple actors. To promote RE in local city, social system that support projects have to be made. This soft part of RE project is very important.

4. Meaning and limitation

This research explains one way to realize RE projects that connect with sustainable development. But my research has limitation. The author could not demonstrate index or tool to evaluate RE project and development in local city. Therefore index is needed to evaluate RE projects.