

The need for evolution in sustainability trajectories

The famous "Energy Trilemma" - security, cost, and environment, is a well-known formulation of competing objectives and tradeoffs when it comes to policy. There are other objectives as well, including citizen rights, choices, equity (distributional issues), etc. that policy-makers must grapple with. Climate change has been described as a Wicked Problem - a class of public policy problems that aren't about right or wrong. The only way to tackle such issues is iteratively, in a multi-stakeholder format.

Kerala's vision and planning efforts are a much-needed effort that both expands bottom-up initiatives and also the multi-stakeholder roles. In this context, I present challenges and possible solutions around what isn't being done (enough) yet, and how the trajectories will need to evolve. I focus on energy systems and electricity, but the lessons apply everywhere.