Gender and Developing a Research Program in Community Energy

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Socio-technical systems

• Complex, systemic, interrelated challenges
• Broader context: democratic decline
• Energy systems
Challenge: Competing Interests
Community Energy
Promises of Energy Democracy

• Policy Effectiveness
  – Enhanced creativity & stakeholder ‘buy-in’
  – NIMBY/YIMBY

• Democratic Legitimacy
  – Commitment to accountability to populace

• Justice
  – Potential for incorporating marginalized/non-traditional policy actors
CE in New Zealand
Community Energy Projects by activity (MacArthur & Gonnelli)
New Zealand community energy projects by ownership (MacArthur & Gonnelli)

18% Community group
38% Cooperative
5% Iwi
5% Municipal
11% Consumer Trust
7% Charitable Trust
4% Iwi Trust
8% Mix Trust
5% Joint venture
1% Partnership
3% Partnership
What about gender?

• Difficulty to find data at ‘energy’ level
• Need to include which women
• Get beyond STEM focus & focus on tech entrepreneurship
• Future studies in community energy starting to look at class & gender more
Questions?
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