A GREEN AND JUST RECOVERY FROM COVID-19?

Government Investment in the Energy Transition during the Pandemic

Kyla Tienhaara, Queen’s University
Tom Moerenhout, International Institute for Sustainable Development
Vanessa Corkal, International Institute for Sustainable Development
Joachim Roth, International Institute for Sustainable Development
Hannah Ascough, Queen’s University
Jessica Herrera Betancur, Queen’s University
Samantha Hussman, Queen’s University
Jessica Oliver, Queen’s University
Kabir Shahani, Queen’s University
Tianna Tischbein, Queen’s University
A Green and Just Recovery from COVID-19?
Government Investment in the Energy Transition during the Pandemic

Elements in Earth System Governance

Kyla Tienhaara, Queen’s University
Tom Moerenhout, International Institute for Sustainable Development
Vanessa Corkal, International Institute for Sustainable Development
Joachim Roth, International Institute for Sustainable Development
Hannah Ascough, Queen’s University
Jessica Herrera Betancur, Queen’s University
Samantha Hussman, Queen’s University
Jessica Oliver, Queen’s University
Kabir Shahani, Queen’s University
Tianna Tischbein, Queen’s University

Author for correspondence: Kyla Tienhaara, kt71@queensu.ca

Abstract: Stimulus spending to address the economic crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to either facilitate the transition away from fossil energy or to lock in carbon-intensive technologies and infrastructure for decades to come. Whether they are focused on green sectors or not, stimulus measures can alleviate or reinforce socioeconomic inequality. This Element delves into the data in the Energy Policy Tracker to assess how energy policies adopted during the pandemic will expedite decarbonization and explores whether governments address inequities through policies targeted to disadvantaged, marginalized, and underserved individuals and communities. The overall finding is that the recovery has not been sufficiently green or just. Nevertheless, a small number of policies aim to advance distributive justice and provide potential models for policymakers as they continue to attempt to “build back better.” This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

Keywords: Climate change, green stimulus, COVID-19, just transition, energy policy

© Kyla Tienhaara, Tom Moerenhout, Vanessa Corkal, Joachim Roth, Hannah Ascough, Jessica Herrera Betancur, Samantha Hussman, Jessica Oliver, Kabir Shahani and Tianna Tischbein 2023

ISBNs: 9781009462570 (HB), 9781009319812 (PB), 9781009319782 (OC)
ISSNs: 2631-7818 (online), 2631-780X (print)
## Contents

1. Introduction  \( \text{Page 1} \)
2. Literature Review  \( \text{Page 16} \)
3. Energy Policies during the Pandemic  \( \text{Page 33} \)
4. Conclusions  \( \text{Page 60} \)

   Acronyms and Abbreviations  \( \text{Page 64} \)

   Appendix  \( \text{Page 65} \)

   References  \( \text{Page 66} \)