

Abstract

This study presents the results of an analysis of stakeholders related to the development of solar power farms in southern Norway. The goals of the analysis were to map out the stakeholders, identify their goals, understand which other stakeholders they work most closely with, and find out how they identify the main drivers of – and challenges to – the development of large-scale solar farms in Norway. Seven semi-structured online interviews were held with a solar farm developer, a solar industry supplier, a grid operator, two regulators and two representatives of environmental organizations. The interviews were complemented, and triangulated, by a document analysis and literature review. The findings demonstrate how diverse the stakeholder ecosystem is and how many participants there are besides solar power developers. The drivers for the solar power developers, the supply industry and society at large, include increasing the amount of renewable energy in the energy system to help meet climate targets, have been recognized as the main aspects of the development. The primary challenges that need to be addressed include licensing processes, integration of intermittent power production, and the availability of land and natural resources. Several stakeholders expressed the need for clear guidelines in the licensing procedure, for environmental assessments to be completed, and for commercial planning of the developments.

Keywords: Interviews, Norway, Stakeholder Analysis, Solar Power, Qualitative Study