PRINT: ISSN 0971-8923 ONLINE: ISSN 2456-6756
JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Interdisciplinary Reflection of Contemporary Society

J Soc Sci, 49(3): 183-194 (2016)
PRINT: ISSN 0971-8923 ONLINE: ISSN 2456-6756
DOI: 10.31901/24566756.2016/49.3-i.01

Using Adaptive Governance to Enhance Transitions toward Sustainable and Resilient Energy Systems

Kofi Akamani

Southern Illinois University, Department of Forestry,
1205 Lincoln Drive, Mail Code 4411, Carbondale, IL 62901, USA
E-mail: k.akamani@siu.edu
Phone: +1618-453-7464; Fax: +161-8453-7475

KEYWORDS Africa. Biofuels. Renewable. Resilience. Vulnerability. Well-being

ABSTRACT The field of energy policy is concerned with the promotion of energy production systems and consumption patterns that enhance socio-economic well-being, energy efficiency, environmental protection, and equitable access. It is increasingly recognized that the attainment of sustainable energy systems requires a transformation from the current system, characterized by the dominance of fossil fuels, toward an alternative system that accommodates renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar, modern biomass, and small-scale hydropower. Renewable energy sources offer several advantages, including environmental friendliness, diversity, security, and opportunities for local community involvement through decentralized management. Yet the process of transition toward alternative energy supply sources has been slow. Using theoretical insights from research on resilience in social-ecological systems, this paper argues for an adaptive governance approach to enhancing the transition toward sustainable and resilient energy systems in sub-Saharan Africa in the face of the uncertainties and conflicts that characterize the energy transition process.