



Energy and environment is defined by its cross-disciplinary basis: an editorial essay

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The first issue of *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews (WIREs): Energy and Environment* appeared in July 2012 after an intensive 2-year planning period between the publisher Wiley & Sons Ltd. and the editors of the journal. In the inaugural issue we stated that ‘*Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews (WIREs): Energy and Environment* aims at filling the gap that has existed in addressing energy issues as a whole and in approaching energy from a multidisciplinary perspective’.¹ The journal has met the promises set: two full volumes with a total of 9 issues had been published by the end of 2013 with a total of 73 papers in energy and environment. These papers highlight key perspectives: technology, systems, economy, policy, security, and environmental impact, all important when making our energy systems more sustainable.

In order to more effectively handle the broad range of themes of the journal, and also to respond faster to topical issues and recent developments in energy and environment, the editorial structure of the journal was updated during 2013. We have now 22 thematic associate editors and a strong international advisory board put in place, representing a group of high-caliber and well-known persons in their respective fields from all around the world, all dedicated to support and to further develop the *WIREs Energy and Environment*.

Over 100 authors and coauthors have created important and archival information through the journal papers in the first two volumes, mostly in the form of review articles that provide broad perspectives into a subject area. Shorter articles with a narrower scope are also included to highlight an important issue or feature in detail. Overall *WIREs Energy and Environment* provides a solid reference work that responds to various demands such as teaching material for university classes, technology reviews to aid science and R&D, and state-of-the-art policy analyses to help decision making, among others. Several of the articles published tackle ‘hot topics’ such as land-use

changes and food-fuel competition in bioenergy,^{2,3} large-scale integration of wind power into the electric infrastructure,⁴ energy systems flexibility,⁵ energy poverty⁶ and security,⁷ sustainable development in China,⁸ innovative wave power,⁹ V2G strategies,¹⁰ just to pick a few examples.

The new year 2014 starts a new epoch in *WIREs Energy and Environment*. The ramping-up phase of the journal has been finished and the journal has reached an established position in its field. The journal is indexed, namely in Scopus, and we are in the process of linking the journal to other important indices as well. Future plans include collections of articles in thematic areas.

In the opening editorial, Dr. R.K. Pachauri, the Chairman of the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC), which received the Nobel-prize for its important work in 2007, stated that ‘the most important question with respect to stabilizing the concentration of GHGs in the atmosphere relates to how we might define the way forward’.¹¹ *WIREs Energy and Environment* definitely works along this idea by providing timely information about the possibilities and policies for mitigation measures. The IPCC has completed four assessment reports and numerous special reports over the past 20 years, providing useful information not only on the potential of energy technologies based on their maturity but also about their perceived impacts against different policy options, which were also reviewed in *WIREs Energy and Environment*.¹² This spring, the full report of the IPCC will be published and the coeditors in chief of *WIREs Energy and Environment* are mindful of this important milestone.

The field of energy and environment is defined by its cross-disciplinary basis. Through invitations to leading researchers, the journal searches for the most complete referential information available on relevant technology, and economic and policy developments. In many ways, this mission is borne out of the

fundamental challenge the field faces—responding to climate change.

As we enter the third volume of publication of *WIREs Energy and Environment*, we hope to continue to attract advanced reviews, focus articles, and editorials written by thought leaders who can employ science, engineering, economics, and policy analysis to answer the challenge. We extend our

sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to the journal in different capacity.

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