

WREC2026

2030 Horizon: The Path to Net Zero
Emissions with Renewable Energy

Western Australia
8 – 11 February 2026

Focus Group Validation of a Social Acceptance Model for Renewable Energy

Date/Time: Monday 9 February 2026 — 4:00pm to 5:30pm

Background

The social acceptance of renewable energy technologies is often analysed through static models of technology adoption. However, emerging factors such as digitalisation, family dynamics, social influence, and uncertainty (VUCA) highlight the need for a more nuanced understanding. My PhD research has used Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) to identify and test these relationships, but validation through interactive, participatory methods is essential to ensure robustness and real-world relevance. This workshop will act as a focus group to refine and validate SEM findings by engaging directly with conference participants. In doing so, it will generate valuable insights that complement statistical analysis and deepen our understanding of how communities perceive renewable energy adoption.

Brief Description

Participants will contribute to the validation of a social acceptance model of renewable energy through a combination of short survey responses and facilitated focus group discussion. The participant contribution will be utilised to further this research and validate the model. Participants are required to consent to use their inputs for this research. As such a information and consent form will be given to all participants to seek consent. Only participants that consent will participate in this workshop. The session will present key SEM findings and invite participants to reflect on the constructs and relationships identified. The workshop is designed to be participatory and beneficial to attendees: it not only supports early-career researcher development but also provides delegates with exposure to a methodological approach that bridges quantitative modelling with qualitative focus group insights.

Workshop Structure

- Short presentation of SEM findings (10 minutes)
- Brief structured survey responses (10–15 minutes)
- Moderated small-group focus discussions (30–40 minutes)
- Plenary feedback and synthesis of insights (10 minutes)

Workshop Organiser

Tanvi Bhatia is a PhD Candidate at the University of Technology Sydney. Their research focuses on developing and validating a framework for social acceptance of renewable energy technologies, with a particular emphasis on integrating social influence, digitalisation, family dynamics, and uncertainty into acceptance models. The outcomes of this research aim to inform policy, industry practice, and academic understanding of renewable energy transitions.

Register now, free for WREC Attendees, Workshop only registration \$110 (incl. GST)

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