



# Fossil-Fuel Subsidy Reform: From Research to Influence

## The case of Indonesia

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# The problem

1. Indonesia spent US\$18.1 billion on subsidies for fossil-fuels and electricity in 2011. Amount due to increase in 2012, and again in 2013 if current policies stay in place;
2. This is more than the country spends on defence, education, health and social security combined;
3. Benefits flow largely to wealthier citizens, and also frustrate efforts to transitions to cleaner energy sources.

# The challenge



March 2012: Parliament set to vote on price increase of 15 cents per litre (from current price of 0.49 cents litre).

Demonstrations erupt across the country; protesters gather outside Parliament building;

Parliamentary parties switch positions; majority declines to support price increase.

# Response

1. Understand the politics of reform;
2. Improve the quality of public debate;
3. Support government policy-making.

# Activities



# 350

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# Measuring impact

1. Media monitoring;
2. Taking the pulse of influential networks (i.e. consumer groups; 350.org);
3. Tracking the positions of political parties.

# Lessons learned

1. Be flexible: good research is not enough to achieve influence; need to invest in communications and reach diverse audiences;
2. Be committed: it takes time to build trust and credibility;
3. Be patient; reform rarely (and shouldn't) happen over-night.

Thank you

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# Discussion

1. What are the key political barriers to increased deployment of renewable energy technology?
2. What is the role of communications in addressing those barriers, and what audiences in particular need to be targeted?
3. What other types of changes in public perceptions need to change – outside of those that are specific to renewable energy – in order to foster renewable energy-friendly policies?