



## Energy Transition and Eco-Innovation

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Since the 1990s, environmental issues have become a major concern for policy makers. Faced with the threat of global warming, it has been seen as essential to reduce energy consumption, limit the use of fossil fuels, and promote the development of low-carbon energies. This requires a radical technological transformation of the global energy system, and the rapid establishment of policies to encourage concerted and coordinated efforts to integrate global ecological concerns into local and national policies.

The implementation of the energy transition involves significant additional investment in low-carbon technologies, significant policy interventions, deep emissions reductions in the electricity sector, and stable long-term and economically efficient price signals to enable rapid adoption of low carbon technologies. Innovation should play a central role to move towards a more environmentally conscious economy. The OCDE1 (2011) recommends that “policies should encourage innovation, as this can enhance efficiency in the use of natural capital and foster new economic opportunities from the emergence of new green activities”. This specific innovation which has a positive impact on environment are called eco-innovation. Supporting new processes, technologies and services that make growth more sustainable, eco-innovation is also an opportunity for businesses. It must foster the emergence of new industrial sectors, create jobs, stimulate growth and enable competitiveness gains.

The contributions expected in this session may address various fields such as:

- the drivers of eco-innovations;
- the identification of eco-innovative firms;
- the relationship between eco-innovation and business performance;
- the role of starts-up in green economy;
- the determinants of the location of eco-innovative firms;
- the evaluation of green public policies

<sup>1</sup> OCDE (2011) Fostering Innovation for Green Growth, September, pages: 130.