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Josefin, Wangel

This paper examines how social structures and agency have been included in backcasting studies for sustainable development. For this purpose an analytical framework was developed, based on what objects of change (whats), measures (hows) and change agents (whos) are included in the scenario, and to which extent these are approached in an explorative way. Through reviewing a number of backcasting studies it was found that these typically are built upon and elaborated with a predominant focus on the questions of what and how physical/technical aspects could change. Social objects of change and explicit representation or analysis of the question of...

Research highlights: □ Agency and social structure are not explored in backcasting studies. □ An analytical framework and literature review highlight implications of this. □ Including actors and social structure gives more comprehensive scenarios.

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