

# THE SOCIAL BENEFITS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

## A LUNCH TALK BY SEBASTIAN HELGENBERGER

Join us for a talk by Sebastian Helgenberger from the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), Potsdam, where he leads the "Multiple Benefits of Renewables" project. Building on experiences with Germany's Energiewende (transition towards renewable energies), Sebastian and his team in their research activities and international science-policy dialogues are putting particular emphasis on the social and economic benefits of renewable energies as drivers of accelerated transitions towards sustainable energy for all.

Boosted by impressive technological innovation and cost reductions, renewable energy in a growing number of countries is now primarily considered for its social and economic benefits. Among these benefits are opportunities for local value creation, energy independence and for reducing conflicts over scarce water, which are aggravated by fossil power generation. Allowing for distributed electricity generation, the rapidly expanding renewable energy world is opening up business models for many, including local communities, citizens and citizens' cooperatives. Experiences from Germany as well as other countries show how domestic energy policy can shape the enabling environment to seizing the social benefits of renewable energy.

*Moderator: Cathie Jo Martin, Director, Boston University Center for the Study of Europe and Professor of Political Science*

*Discussant: Anthony Janetos, Director of the Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future and Professor of Earth and Environment.*

Thursday, February 15 at 12:30 PM\* | Pardee School of Global Studies, 121 Bay State Road

*\*Lunch will be available at 12 PM. RSVP: [edamrien@bu.edu](mailto:edamrien@bu.edu)*



Boston University Pardee School of Global Studies  
Center for the Study of Europe



The Frederick S. Pardee Center  
for the Study of the Longer-Range Future