

Green hydrogen: fueling just decarbonization or 'greening' extractivism?

Online Conference, 22nd - 23rd February, 2024

Green hydrogen is being discussed globally as one of the necessary contributions to a decarbonized economy. However, its role in achieving a just transition is controversial. While some argue that it has the potential to contribute significantly to the transition to just and sustainable energy systems, e.g. by improving air quality for communities adjacent to industrial zones or by creating new sources of income and green jobs in structurally weak regions, others point to its multiple socio-ecological risks: In particular, the expected massive expansion of hydrogen infrastructure, such as giant wind and solar farms, pipelines, transmission grids and desalination plants in potential producing countries in the global South, risks fueling conflicts over land and freshwater with negative consequences for ecosystems and frontline communities. Moreover, as the hydrogen economy is largely driven by actors in the global North, there are concerns that green hydrogen may lead to deepened South-North dependencies and a 'greening' of extractivism rather than to a just decarbonization and equitable trade relations. In light of these uncertainties, this online conference asks how to create socially just and ecologically sound hydrogen production chains. To this end, it brings together academics, policy makers, activists and business representatives from Europe, Africa and Latin America.

Organizing Committee: Alexandra Tost (Research Institute for Sustainability, Potsdam), Aliaksei Patonia (The Oxford Institute for Energy Studies), Benno Fladvad (University of Hamburg), Franziska Müller (University of Hamburg), Rainer Quitzow (Research Institute for Sustainability, Potsdam)

Please, register here for your online participation: <https://eveeno.com/greenhydrogenonline>

Agenda

Day 1 - Thursday, 22nd February

15:00-15:15 Introduction by Benno Fladvad, Franziska Müller & Aliaksei Patonia, Universität Hamburg / The Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

15:15 – 16:45 Panel 1: Green hydrogen, just transitions and North-South relationships

Chair: Benno Fladvad, University of Hamburg

Speakers

- *Nuria Hartmann*, Consultant, Hinicio's Business Unit Chile
- *Tobias Kalt*, Researcher, H2 Politics, Universität Hamburg
- *Innocent Haingura*, Frack Free Namibia
- *Neelke Wagner*, Climate and Resource Justice Expert, Powershift
- *Vandre Spellmeier*, Head of the German-Angolan Hydrogen Office, H2 Diplo

17:15 – 18:45 Panel 2: Hydrogen Governance and Democracy

Chair: Franziska Müller, University of Hamburg



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- *Michèle Knodt*, Professor of Political Science; ARIADNE research cluster, TU Darmstadt
- *Benjamin Schütze*, Emmy Noether Junior Research Group 'Renewable Energies, Renewed Authoritarianisms?', Uni Freiburg
- *Marie Dejonghe*, Research Associate, University of Ghent
- *More speakers tbc*

Day 2 - Friday, 23rd February

14:00 - 15:30 Panel 3: Hydrogen for the decarbonization of industry: potentials and pitfalls of green industrial development

Chair: Rainer Quitzow, RIFS Potsdam

Speakers

- *Laima Eicke*, Research Associate, RIFS Potsdam, Germany
- *Joe Kendrick*, Analyst, Blue Green Alliance, USA
- *Joanne Bate*, COO, Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa
- *Discussant tbc*

16:00-17:30 Panel 4: Green hydrogen and water justice

Chair: Alexandra Tost, RIFS Potsdam

Speakers

- *Cristina Dorador*, Department of Biotechnology, University of Antofagasta & Member of the Green Hydrogen Action Plan Strategic Committee, Chile
- *Daniel Frank*, Senior Advisor for Water Management and Coordinator of the Green-H2 Namibia project at DECHEMA, Germany
- *Romain Mauger*, Head of Legal Research Unit at the Iberian Centre for Research in Energy Storage (CIAE), Spain
- *Rainer Schröder*, Expert in Energy Transition Concepts, 2014-2023 Director of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program, GIZ, Chile

17:30-17:45 Wrap up and outlook by Alexandra Tost and Rainer Quitzow, RIFS Potsdam
