

Research and Dialogue for Sustainable Societies



Dear readers,

As the summer heat reminds us all too clearly, climate change isn't taking a break. Climate protection cannot be delayed. In this latest newsletter, we look at how citizen participation can support the energy transition, share perspectives on climate policy from Africa, and explore how today's multiple crises are deeply interconnected.

A quick reminder: The [Call for Proposals](#) for the 2025 RIFS conference "Tough Conversations in Tough Times" is open until 5 July. We warmly invite you to submit a proposal. The conference will focus on the challenges of sustainability, real-world barriers to change, and promising strategies for moving forward.

Find out more about our work and activities at RIFS in this newsletter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us: media@rifs-potsdam.de.

Best regards from Potsdam,

Matthias Tang, Head of Press and Communication

PS: To learn more about our work between the newsletters, you can follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Mastodon](#) or visit our [website](#).

NEWS



Citizen Participation in the Energy Transition: Learning from Experience

How effective is citizen and public participation in the energy transition? This question has been explored in numerous case studies, with varying results. But what broader insights emerge when these findings are brought together? To find out, RIFS researcher Jörg Radtke conducted a comprehensive analysis, recently published in the journal "Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews".

[Learn more](#)



Interview

The African Perspective

Nigerian climate activist Adenike Oladosu founded Fridays for Future in her home country and is considered one of the most important voices on the African continent in the fight for climate justice. She is now spending a year as a fellow at the Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS) in Potsdam to focus on the issue of flooding caused by climate change in her home country of Nigeria and in Germany. In this interview, she explains what she plans to do and how her topic relates to food security.

[Learn more](#)

Review article

Polycrisis and Systemic Risks: New Approaches in Governance and Communication

The Covid-19 pandemic, Russia's war on Ukraine, geopolitical tensions, climate change and other events highlight our growing exposure to complex, interconnected, and intertwining risks. In view of this development, the focus of risk research has shifted towards the comprehensive analysis of interconnected and mutually interactive risk sources and crises. In a review article published in the International Journal of Disaster Risk Science, Huan Liu (Kyoto University) and Ortwin Renn (Research Institute for Sustainability, RIFS) offer an overview of the current state of research on polycrises and systemic risks.

[Learn more](#)

PUBLICATIONS



RIFS Study

Governance for a Sustainable Hydrogen Economy: Lessons from Bioenergy in the EU

Mauger, R. (2025)

A Selection of
our Latest Scientific Publications

[DOWNLOAD](#)

NEW ON THE RIFS BLOG



How Experimental Solutions Can Catalyse Sustainable Urban Development
Thomas Spinrath



Making the Case for a Foundation for Participatory Democracy
Ortwin Renn



Legal Innovation and the Journey of Rights on the Arapiuns River
Maria Cecilia Oliveira



Cooperation is Powering Local Energy Transitions
Julia Plessing

[TO THE BLOG](#)

EVENTS

01.07.2025

Performative Lecture
VOLATILITY

07.07.2025

Online Event
Governance for a Sustainable Hydrogen Economy: Lessons from Bioenergy in the European Union

10.07.2025

Conference
6. Plenarveranstaltung der Nachhaltigkeitsplattform Brandenburg

23.07.2025

Side-Event at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
Formats, success factors and challenges of interministerial coordination for achieving the SDGs



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