

Call for Papers

# Energy Innovation and Climate Change – The Role of Technologies, Firms and Institutions

4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015 , ETH Zurich

The energy sector is a major contributor to some of the most pressing societal challenges, such as climate change, resource depletion and local air pollution. To mitigate these problems, new energy technologies, e.g., renewable energy, energy efficiency and storage technologies, need to be developed and diffused. Firms and institutions, such as public policy, play a particularly important role in achieving these goals.

Against this background, the eighth annual ETH PhD Academy on Sustainability and Technology is concerned with technological, organizational and institutional change in the context of the energy sector and climate change. It provides a unique platform for PhD students with a background in innovation studies, management, economics or political sciences to present their research to an audience of like-minded students and four international faculty with a track record in research on innovation and the energy sector. Participants will obtain detailed feedback on their research design, theoretical approaches and methodology. In addition, there will be plenty of room for informal discussions and networking with other PhD students and professors. This year's faculty consists of:

- **Dr. Laura Diaz Anadon**  
Professor of Public Policy, Harvard University, USA
- **Dr. Charlene Zietsma**  
Professor of Organization Studies, York University, Canada
- **Dr. Johann Peter Murmann**  
Professor of Management, University of New South Wales, Australia
- **Dr. Volker Hoffmann**  
Professor for Sustainability and Technology, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Research of the participants should focus on – but is not limited to – the following topics:

- Technology and innovation strategies of firms in the context of energy and climate change
- Energy or climate policy
- Comparative institutional analysis of countries or regions in the context of energy or climate change
- Institutional barriers to renewable energy and clean technologies
- Energy policy making and firm innovation in the face of technology uncertainty
- Innovation systems in the context of energy and climate change
- Socio-technical or techno-economic assessment and forecasting of energy and low-carbon technologies

The ETH PhD Academy will take place in a hotel in the midst of the Swiss Alps. To guarantee an intensive learning process, attendance is limited to 15 PhD students. Third-party funding allows us to offer a participation fee of only CHF 400 (ca. 460 USD) which covers accommodation, meals and excursions.

Applications should be sent to Joern Hoppmann (jhopppmann@ethz.ch) and include (i) a cover letter explaining your motivation, (ii) a proposal abstract of max. 2 pages, and (iii) a CV. The deadline for application is March 22, 2015. Notification of acceptance will be given by April 1, 2015. Deadline for full paper submission (10-15 pages) is May 10, 2015. For additional information, please see the previous academies' programs on our website ([http://www.sustec.ethz.ch/education/PhD\\_Academy/](http://www.sustec.ethz.ch/education/PhD_Academy/)) or contact Joern Hoppmann. We look forward to receiving your application!

**Prof. Volker H. Hoffmann**  
Group for Sustainability and Technology (SusTec), ETH Zurich