



Katharina Umpfenbach

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Team

Research & Policy Analysis

Topics

Energy
Climate
Digitalization
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Education

Katharina Umpfenbach is a Senior Fellow and coordinates Ecologic Institute's work on energy policy. Her research focuses on developing a new regulatory framework that can enable energy sector decarbonisation and sector coupling. She is particularly interested in the interplay of energy market integration in Europe and the German Energiewende and in the integration of the power and transport sectors through electric mobility. She is a native German speaker and fluent in English and French.

With over a decade of experience in policy research, Katharina Umpfenbach has carried out numerous energy policy projects. Currently, she leads an accompanying research process for Germany's major energy research programme SINTEG that showcases innovative solutions for a fully renewable energy system. Since its inception, she has also works on the EU Clean Energy For All Europeans package, with a particular focus on the Governance Regulation, and covers Germany's exit from coal-firing. In the past, Katharina assisted the German Environment Ministry (BMU) in adapting the national support scheme for solar energy and supported the negotiations for the EU 2030 energy and climate targets.

In addition to her research and consultancy work, Katharina teaches students from University of Notre Dame and Duke University. She also regularly presents her insights during visitor programmes for journalists and policy makers from across the world who seek to better understand the implications of energy sector transformation.

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Prior to joining Ecologic Institute, Katharina Umpfenbach worked at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Washington DC. During her time at UNEP, she helped foster cooperation

between North American NGOs and UNEP and contributed to environmental assessment reports. She also interned in the German Bundestag.

Katharina Umpfenbach was awarded a MSc in Environmental Change and Management with distinction from Oxford University. In her previous studies at the Humboldt-Universität in Berlin (Germany), Katharina Umpfenbach studied history, political science and economics. Her studies were supported by the German National Academic Foundation.

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