

About the Energy Security Initiative

The Brookings Institution launched the Energy Security Initiative (ESI) in the Fall of 2007. ESI will draw from Brookings five research programs to take a multi-disciplinary approach to the manifold challenges associated with sound energy policies. Energy security today cuts across many sectors—economic, environmental, and strategic. Each issue area presents serious policy challenges in its own right, yet sound policymaking demands the even greater challenge of tackling these interrelated issue areas together in order to develop an effective, viable, long-term energy security strategy.

Brookings is uniquely positioned to tackle energy security in this comprehensive and integrated manner. The Institution can draw from scholars in its five research programs: Foreign Policy Studies, Economic Studies, Global Economy and Development, Governance Studies and Metropolitan Policy; as well as from policymakers, industry representatives, journalists, and other important stakeholders from the United States and the international community to engage in much-needed dialogue on energy security issues.

Brookings scholars will examine three key substantive aspects of energy security:

- **Strategic**, with a focus on the geopolitics of energy in a range of countries and regions around the world, including the Middle East, China, India, Russia, Europe, Latin America, and others, particularly to understand the intersection of politics and energy, security risks to the United States and other consumers and producers posed by vulnerabilities to key supplies transport routes, and markets; the ways in which energy demand drives national security decisions in countries such as China and India, as well as the opportunities and risks posed by nuclear power.
- **Economic**, including supply disruptions and price spikes and their effects (inflationary and other) on the United States and the world energy markets; shifts in global wealth, and the questions arising from that, for financial markets and national policies; the impact of open and sustainable economic systems on development both in energy-consuming and energy-producing nations.
- **Environmental**, with a special emphasis on climate change and greenhouse gas emissions, including an examination of non-fossil supply sources; demand management; regulatory, tax, and other policy tools that can influence market incentives to pursue various technologies; the political and economic implications of alternative technologies for various industries and constituencies; and the international arrangements needed to cut global emissions.

Implicit in all of these aspects of energy security is the need for domestic and international governance arrangements to fulfill a range of functions. These include the interplay between federal, state, and local regulation of various forms of energy; the role of existing institutions in international energy markets and the implications for emerging economies; assessing and preparing for regional or global disruptions; efforts to increase incentives to invest in new and existing resources and technology; achieving greater diversification of the energy mix domestically and globally; creating security arrangements that stabilize key regions like the Persian Gulf or transport lanes; building institutional capacity to support market mechanisms to curb carbon emissions; and managing disputes between winners and losers as the cost of carbon is reflected in the U.S. and other economies.

Energy security is a major factor influencing how countries conduct their foreign, economic, and international security policies. Major supplier countries with vast energy resources exercise more power on the international stage than ever before. Energy is a primary consideration in how large importers—in need of adequate, reliable, and affordable supplies of energy—make alliances, offer foreign aid, and otherwise conduct their foreign policy. The initiative aims to guide effective, pragmatic policies to address these and other U.S. and global energy security issues over the next decade. Brookings’s focus for this initiative is both on U.S. foreign and domestic policy-making and policy-makers, and also for other key nations, companies, financial markets, and global institutions. The initiative will result in a series of products—including books and other publications—and events, including private briefings with policy makers as well as public briefings with experts and the media.

A team of experts will underpin this initiative. Brookings will work with research partners in the United States and abroad, utilizing the Institution’s new offices in Beijing and Qatar and its extensive work in Russia, India, and Northeast Asia. The Institution is currently recruiting a senior expert to coordinate the initiative. A team of internationally renowned experts, led by Pulitzer Prize winning author Daniel Yergin, U.S. Senator Richard Lugar, Shirley Jackson and Thomas “Mack” McLarty will serve as an advisory group for the project.

Brookings’ Strength – An Institution Wide Approach

The Brookings Energy Security Initiative is one of five cross-program priorities for the Institution. This means that the President, the research Vice Presidents, and Trustees feel that the issue is both critical enough and complex enough to draw from all five research programs, and that the Institution’s breadth and depth can be brought to bear to have an impact on the issue at hand. The Initiative’s scholars will draw on Brookings’ broad network, which also includes members of various Brookings Advisory Councils, to help support and disseminate the resulting research and policy efforts. Our comprehensive approach involves senior scholars from throughout Brookings working together to set a research agenda and contribute analysis and policy recommendations. On a regular basis, scholars will present their work to one another and to a diverse range of outsiders, gaining insight from the full range of disciplines and experience within the Institution and beyond to help frame the critical issues requiring future research and convening. The three key strengths that we bring to this Initiative are:

- **Diverse Cross-Cutting Policy Expertise:** Our roster of scholars includes experts in domestic and global economics, domestic politics, foreign policy, national security, climate change policy, international governance structures, and metropolitan and regional policies.

- **Strong Networks and Overseas Resources:** Brookings has developed relationships with other research institutions, leading scholars, and policymakers in critical regions throughout the world. We have established a presence in the Persian Gulf (our new center in Doha) and in China (the Brookings-Tsinghua Center in Beijing) that gives us vital perspectives on energy-producing and energy-consuming countries. Brookings also has a history of forming strategic partnerships with other research institutions such as the American Enterprise Institute and the Urban Institute to form joint policy centers that draw on the complimentary strengths of each institution.
- **Respected Research and Influential Outreach:** Brookings consistently ranks as the highest regarded think tank for the quality, independence and impact of its research. This reputation will allow Brookings to play a formative role in shaping energy policy not only domestically but in the international arena as well. Brookings scholars testify before congress, are interviewed in all means of news media, participate in and speak at conferences around the world, and serve as advisors to important policy-makers.

Management

The Brookings Energy Security Initiative will be aided by a distinguished committee of outside advisors that will provide oversight and strategic direction. Staff leaders will develop and draw on an internal and external network of scholars and policymakers from key countries.

Brookings Trustee Daniel Yergin and U.S. Senator Richard Lugar co-chair the advisory committee of recognized leaders. Current ESI Advisory Council members are: Shirley Jackson, Thomas “Mack” McLarty, John Deutch and Jim Hackett who bring a range of perspectives and expertise on energy security issues. This group will meet annually, and will be available on an ongoing basis to offer advice and open doors as

Brookings has established a core team of staff to lead the Energy Security Initiative. Carlos Pascual, Brookings Vice President and Director of Foreign Policy Studies, serves as the Energy Initiative sponsor from the Brookings senior management team. To ensure effective cross-program collaboration, Bill Antholis, Brookings Managing Director, will spend approximately 20% of his time on this Initiative. Les Silverman, former head of McKinsey & Co.’s practices in energy and non-profit organizations, is Senior Advisor to the Initiative.

Core ESI staff members:

Charles Ebinger, Director
Bryan Mignone, Director of Research
Lea Rosenbohm, Project Manager
Evie Zambetakis, Project/Research Coordinator