

# Devashree Saha

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Public policy researcher with 10+ experience working on U.S. and international clean energy and climate change policies. Author of several highly influential publications that have informed U.S. state and cities policy development. Resourceful problem-solver with extensive experience managing projects, designing and conducting policy workshops, facilitating discussion, and communicating ideas to diverse audience. Enjoys helping find innovative policy solutions and developing strategic plans for successful policy adoption and implementation. Work has been cited in numerous media outlets including the New York Times, The Economist, USA Today, Marketplace, and TIME Magazine.

## WORK HISTORY

### Senior Associate.

May 2019 – Present

#### World Resources Institute, Washington, DC

- Leading WRI-U.S. research on new climate federalism framework that would allow future federal climate programs to better leverage actions by U.S. state and cities.
- Leading U.S. New Climate Economy research which quantifies the economic benefits of climate action in the United States and examines distributional impact.
- Communicate WRI research and analysis with external audiences via participation in media interviews, conferences, workshops, and other events
- Assist in developing the overall strategy for WRI-U.S. and prioritizing of research and project activities.

### Director of Energy and Environmental Policy.

May 2017 – May 2019

#### Council of State Governments, Washington, DC

- Directed research, policy analysis, and technical assistance to all three branches of state governments with data and guidance on best practices affecting the energy sector, environmental protection, and natural resource management.
- Built partnerships and collaborate with CSG private sector associates to obtain their support, financial and otherwise, for key CSG energy and environment initiatives.
- Managed relationship building and dialogue between state legislators and public utility commissioners to advance energy systems of the future. Led a successful policy academy, "Building Relationship Between Energy Regulators and Legislators," attended by a group of 30 legislators and energy regulators to discuss opportunities and identify solutions to improve collaboration between legislators and regulators.
- Led CSG "Future of Electrification" programming to educate and assist state policymakers to understand how widespread electrification can impact the U.S. power system and the broader economy. Lead author of CSG report, *State Strategies to Advancing the Electric Vehicle Marketplace*, a resource for state officials.

**Consultant, infoDev Climate Technology Program.  
World Bank, Washington, DC**

**Jul. 2015 – Jan. 2019**

- Lead researcher for “Accelerating New Green Markets in Indonesia” project, analyzing the comparative advantages of Indonesia to compete in emerging cleantech markets. Led the analysis of 14 climate-related sectors to identify the markets which have the greatest potential for the Indonesian economy.
- Team member in a research project, “Early Stage Financing in Green Sectors in Sub-Saharan Africa,” providing deeper insights into how risk capital can be unlocked for early stage clean technology companies in developing countries by understanding the experiences of investors. Led the data analysis and writing of off-grid energy section.
- Supervised and managed “Innovations for Scaling Green Sectors” research project examining business models for supporting clean technology entrepreneurs in developing countries.

**Associate Fellow, Metropolitan Policy Program.  
Brookings Institution, Washington, DC**

**Mar. 2011 – May 2017**

- Designed and conducted original research on U.S. clean energy policy to inform federal, state, and regional policymaking, and to position Brookings as a thought leader on energy issues. Examples of research projects include analysis of: clean energy innovation trends by examining patent and venture capital data; decoupling trends at the U.S. subnational level and factors driving them; innovative financing mechanisms such as state green banks and clean energy bond financing; and the size, scope, and nature of the U.S. clean economy by estimating employment numbers for 39 clean economy segments.
- Wrote blog posts, op-eds, and other materials that frequently appeared in the Brookings’ The Avenue and The Energy Collective blogs.
- Developed and executed policy conferences and peer-learning roundtables on clean energy topics, including a highly impactful workshop on state green banks for state officials and members of the clean energy finance community.
- Wrote grant proposals to secure funding for clean energy and climate change research, identified and networked with potential funders.
- Responded to research interview requests and field inquiries from state and local practitioners, external scholars, and media.

**Senior Policy Analyst, Environment, Energy & Transportation Division.  
National Governors Association, Washington, DC**

**Oct. 2009 – Mar. 2011**

- Led a 10-month policy academy on building retrofits. Researched leading challenges and policy options for states adopting large-scale building retrofit programs; drafted RFP for states applying for the policy academy; developed opening convening and closing meeting of policy academy, including identifying experts in energy financing, building retrofit technology, workforce development and outreach to serve as faculty; provided direct technical assistance (TA) to states through on- and off-site collaboration.
- Designed and led clean energy financing regional workshops. Created workshop agenda; identified speakers for three regional workshops; developed RFP inviting organizations/individuals to apply for a subcontract to help NGA Center staff provide states technical assistance on clean energy financing. Author of a report highlighting various options states can use to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives.

- Convened State Lead by Example Working Subgroup. Developed webinar series to provide TA to state officials on enhancing use of clean energy in state buildings and facilities, including financing, program design, and implementation issues.
- Drafted technical assistance memos in response to requests from governors' staff. Issues covered: Feed-in tariff policies: Comparing the European and U.S. experience; Building Retrofit Strategies, Analysis of Clean Energy Workforce Needs and Programs.

## EDUCATION

### **PhD in Public Policy, 2008**

LBJ School of Public Affairs  
The University of Texas, Austin.  
Major: Environmental Policy

### **Masters in Political Science, 2001**

Purdue University  
Major: Public Policy

## PUBLICATIONS

- "America's New Climate Economy: A Comprehensive Guide to the Economic Benefits of Climate Policy in the United States." World Resources Institute, July 2020 (with Joel Jaeger)
- "Grid Modernization: Creating Jobs, Cutting Electric Bills, and Improving Resiliency." World Resources Institute, April 2020.
- "State Strategies to Advancing the Electric Vehicle Marketplace." The Council of State Governments, December 2018 (with Sean Slone).
- "Trends and Market Forces Shaping the Future of U.S. Coal Industry." The Council of State Governments, September 2017.
- "Cleantech Venture Capital: Continued Declines and Narrow Geography Limit Prospects." Brookings Institution, May 2017 (with Mark Muro).
- "Patenting Invention: Clean Energy Innovation Trends and Priorities for the Trump Administration and Congress." Brookings Institution, April 2017 (with Mark Muro).
- "Growth, Carbon, and Trump: State Progress and Drift on Economic Growth and Emissions 'Decoupling'." Brookings Institution, December 2016 (with Mark Muro).
- "Rooftop Solar: Net Metering is a Net Benefit." Brookings Institution, May 2016 (with Mark Muro).
- "Green Municipal Bonds." In Finance for City Leaders, edited by Marco Kamiya and Le-Yin Zhang, UN Habitat, 2016.
- "Permanent Trust Funds: Funding Economic Change with Fracking Revenues." Brookings Institution, April 2016 (with Mark Muro).
- "FDI in Detroit: An Analysis of Jobs in Foreign-Owned Establishments." Brookings Institution, April 2015 (with Nick Marchio).
- "FDI in U.S. Metro Areas: The Geography of Jobs in Foreign-Owned Establishments." Brookings Institution, June 2014 (with Kenan Fikri and Nick Marchio).
- "Clean Energy Finance through the Bond Market: A New Option for Progress." Brookings Institution, April 2014 (with Lew Milford, Mark Muro, Robert Sanders, and Toby Rittner).
- "Launch! Taking Colorado's Space Economy to the Next Level." Brookings Institution, February 2013 (with Mark Muro, Kenan Fikri, Jessica Lee, and Nick Marchio).
- "Cut to Invest: Create a Nationwide Network of Advanced Industries Innovation Hubs." In Remaking Federalism | Renewing the Economy: Resetting Federal Policy to Recharge the Economy, Stabilize the Budget, and Unleash State and Metropolitan Innovation. Brookings Institution, January 2013 (with Mark Muro).
  - "Strengthen Federalism: Enact Legislation Supporting Residential Property Assessed Clean

Energy Financing (PACE).” In *Remaking Federalism | Renewing the Economy: Resetting Federal Policy to Recharge the Economy, Stabilize the Budget, and Unleash State and Metropolitan Innovation*. Brookings Institution, November 2012.

- “State Clean Energy Finance Banks: New Investment Facilities for Clean Energy Deployment.” Brookings Institution, September 2012 (with Ken Berlin, Reed Hundt, and Mark Muro).
- “Green Growth and Sub-National Development Imperative.” In *Rio+20: Coalitions Driving Bottom-Up Change*. Brookings Institution, June 2012 (with Mark Muro).
- “Leveraging State Clean Energy Funds for Economic Development.” Brookings Institution, January 2012 (with Lew Milford, Mark Muro, Jessica Morey, and Mark Sinclair).
- “Unify, Regionalize, and Diversify: An Economic Development Agenda for Nevada.” Brookings Institution, 2011 (with Mark Muro, Neil Ruiz, and Kenan Fikri).
- “Sizing the Clean Economy: A National and Regional Green Jobs Assessment.” Brookings Institution, July 2011 (with Mark Muro and Jonathan Rothwell).
- “Guidebook on State Clean Energy Financing.” National Governors Association, January 2011 (with Sue Gander and Greg Dierkers).
- “The Role of ‘New’ Political Culture in Predicting City Sustainability Efforts: An Exploratory Analysis.” Working Paper Series, School of Architecture, University of Texas at Austin, 2010 (with Robert Paterson).
- “Enhancing State Clean Energy Workforce to Meet Demand.” National Governors Association, November 2010.
- “Advancing Clean Energy: A Report of the Clean Energy States Grant Program.” National Governors Association, April 2010 (with Andrew Kambour and Greg Dierkers).
- “Empirical Research on Local Government Sustainability Efforts in the USA: Gaps in the Current Literature.” *Local Environment* 14 (1), 2009.
- “Factors Influencing Local Government Sustainability Efforts.” *State and Local Government Review* 14 (1), 2009.
- “Local Government Efforts to Promote the “Three Es” of Sustainable Development: Survey in Medium to Large Cities in the U.S.” *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 28, 2008 (with Robert Paterson).

#### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- “Intro to Energy Investment Partnerships.” Webinar organized by the Council of Development Finance Agencies and the Department of Energy. March 22, 2016.
- Briefed the White House Council on Environmental Quality on Brookings research on leveraging bond financing for clean energy projects. March 15, 2016.
- “Advancing Energy Finance: Which Policies Have the Biggest Impact?” Webinar organized by Yale Clean Energy Finance Forum and the Council of Development Finance Agencies. May 5, 2015.
- “Energy Financing: Getting the Green to Make the Green.” International Economic Development Council’s 2015 Federal Economic Development Forum. March 30, 2015, Arlington, Virginia.
- “Global Investment 101.” Presentation to Global Investment Caucus, co-chaired by Congressmen Kevin Brady and Jim Moran. July 10, 2014. Washington DC.
- “FDI in U.S. Metro Areas: The Geography of Jobs in Foreign-Owned Establishments.” Presentation to senior leaders, Department of Commerce, SelectUSA, Bureau of Economic Analysis. May 27, 2014. Washington DC.
- “Regional Clusters / Jobs.” Global New Energy Summit. April 9-11, 2012. Colorado Springs, Colorado.

- “Green Jobs are Real: Next Steps for New York.” Center for Working Families 2011 Policy Conference. November 30, 2011.
- “Green Jobs: Defining, Measuring, and Understanding Recent Trends.” U.S. Department of State’s Advancing the Green Economy: Rio+20 and Beyond. September 28, 2011.
- “What’s Next: It’s Green Economy Implementation Time.” Paper presented at the National Association of State Workforce Board Chairs 2010 Annual Meeting, August 2, 2010, Boston, Massachusetts.
- “Political Culture and Local Sustainability Effort in the U.S.” Paper presented at the Fourth Joint Congress of The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning and The Association of European Schools of Planning, July 2008, Chicago, Illinois.
- “Local Sustainability Effort in the U.S.: An Exploratory Analysis.” Paper presented at Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences, June 2007, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- “Enforcement of Pollution Control Laws and Compliance by the U.S. Oil Refinery Sector.” Paper presented at Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Conference, November 2006, Madison, Wisconsin.

#### **MEDIA**

- *Print*: Interviews and citations in The Economist, New York Times, The Washington Post, TIME, USA Today, Newsweek, Chicago Tribune, 24/7 Wall Street, Boston Globe, and other regional outlets.
- *Radio*: Interviews on Marketplace, NPR, and other local public radio and network affiliate programs.