ARJUN KRISHNASWAMI – BIOGRAPHY

Arjun Krishnaswami is a Policy Analyst at the Natural Resources Defense Council, an organization of more than 700 scientists, attorneys, advocates, and policy experts that works to safeguard the earth, including the people, plants and animals, and natural systems on which all life depends. In his role at NRDC, Mr. Krishnaswami uses energy system models and other analytical tools to design and support policy solutions that accelerate the clean energy transition, focusing on policy at the federal level and in the interior western states. His work has included analysis of federal power sector policies, modeling the effects of clean energy policies in the western United States, and analysis of the economic impact of clean energy development in the rural Midwest.

Mr. Krishnaswami also has led the development of NRDC's clean energy innovation policy platform. He advocates for expansion of U.S. Department of Energy programs to address emerging problems of the energy system, including grid modernization, increasingly variable power supply, the need for rapid electrification of transportation, buildings, and industrial facilities, and the development of a diverse, well-trained clean energy workforce.

Prior to working at NRDC, Mr. Krishnaswami worked on the energy-water nexus at the World Resources Institute and, before that, built hydrologic models to understand the interactions between climate change, land use, and water resources. He holds a bachelor's degree in environmental systems engineering and a master's in civil and environmental engineering from Stanford University.

ARJUN JACOB KRISHNASWAMI

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202-717-8298

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Natural Resources Defense Council (Washington, D.C.)
Policy Analyst *October 2018 – Present*

- Develop clean energy innovation policy platform and advocate for these policies to Congress.
- Analyze assumptions and outputs of IPM, NEMS, PATHWAYS, and RIO energy system models to derive insights about impact of specific policies on power sector and other parts of economy.
- Review scientific and market reports and leverage public datasets to track and compare projections for costs and performance of clean energy technologies to inform energy system analysis.
- Advocate for clean energy and sustainable transportation policy to Congress, state legislatures, and regulators.

Schneider Sustainable Energy Fellow *September 2017 – September 2018*

- Analyzed assumptions and outputs of IPM and NEMS energy system models to derive insights about impact of specific policies on power sector and other parts of economy.
- Reviewed scientific and market reports and leverage public datasets to track and compare projections for costs and performance of clean energy technologies to inform energy system analysis.
- Advocated for clean energy and sustainable transportation policy to Congress, state legislatures, and regulators.
- Developed communications resources to support clean energy advocacy, including an interactive website to display cost and capacity data for renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

World Resources Institute (Washington, D.C.)
Schneider Sustainable Energy Fellow *June 2016 – September 2016*

- Piloted new method to estimate water use by thermal power plants using satellite imagery. Started building world's first comprehensive dataset on thermoelectric water consumption. Presented work to CEO and 150+ staff.

Stanford University (Stanford, CA)
Research Assistant – Department of Earth System Science *May 2015 – September 2017*

- Developed hydrologic model for a Puerto Rican watershed to investigate the impact of climate and land use change on water supply for ~750,000 people. Analyzed precipitation, land use, soil, and discharge data using Excel, R, Python, ArcGIS, and SWAT.
- Developed and piloted new geostatistical approach to combine radar rainfall data with gauge data.

Teaching Assistant *September 2015 – June 2017*

- Designed lesson plans, lectured, and advised students for 4 courses related to environmental economics and regulation, hydrology, environmental science, and sustainable natural resources management.

Research Assistant – Center for Conservation Biology *April 2014 – September 2016*

- Conducted meta-analysis of 250+ scientific papers to quantify the impact of land use change and deforestation on biodiversity.

EDUCATION

Stanford University (Stanford, CA)
M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering *January 2016 – June 2017*

Stanford University (Stanford, CA)
B.S. in Environmental Systems Engineering *September 2012 – June 2016*

- Rhodes Scholarship Finalist. Degree with Distinction (Top 15% of graduating class). Stanford University Award of Excellence (Top 10% of senior class based on faculty and staff recommendations). Dean's Award for Academic Achievement (Awarded to 9 students among ~6,000 for achievement and character based on faculty nominations).

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PUBLICATIONS

Shah, T, **Krishnaswami AJ** (2019)**.** "Transforming the U.S. Department of Energy in Response to the Climate Crisis: Legislative Authorization Principles for Clean Energy Innovation." Natural Resources Defense Council.

Krishnaswami AJ, Mittelman E (2018). "Clean Energy Sweeps Across Rural America." Natural Resources Defense Council.

Krishnaswami AJ, Mittelman E (2018). "Clean Jobs: Rural America." Environmental Entrepreneurs.

Luo T, **Krishnaswami A**, Li X (2018). "A methodology to estimate water demand for thermal power plants in data-scarce regions using satellite images." Technical Note. World Resources Institute.

Mendenhall CD, Shields-Estrada A, **Krishnaswami AJ**, Daily GC (2016). "Quantifying and sustaining biodiversity in tropical agricultural landscapes." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.*

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Speaker, "Energy Storage: Enabler of the Low-Carbon Transition," Congressional briefing hosted by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, March 2019

Speaker and Moderator, "The Great Debate: Grid Modernization for a Clean Energy Future," Solar Power International, September 2019

Speaker and Moderator, "Transforming the U.S. Department of Energy in Response to the Climate Crisis," Congressional briefing hosted by NRDC, November 2019