

Funded Graduate Research Opportunities

**ENERGY TRANSITION AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION:
PLACING THE 'RURAL' IN ENERGY TRANSITION MANAGEMENT**

Renewable energy development – rural economic transitions – landscape values – tourism and amenity

Our global energy system is in the early stages of a structural transition away from 'below ground energy' (coal, oil, natural gas) and toward 'above ground energy' including solar, wind, biomass, and other forms of renewable energy. We see this transition in the landscapes all around us as wind turbines dotting the country side; solar panels covering roofs and fields; and new kinds of biomass being harvested. This transition is most pronounced where access to renewable energy is highest – in rural areas. Simply stated, the transition to renewable, sustainable energy transition is at the same time a profound transformation of rural landscapes.

In joining this project, you will develop advanced knowledge and skills to contribute to, and help manage, this energy transition/rural transformation. Two opportunities are available, both of which aiming to provide insight into the unique barriers and opportunities for renewable energy development in 'high amenity' (i.e., tourism-based) landscapes.

- Masters (MES) student at Dalhousie to work with Dr. Kate Sherren, Associate Professor in the School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University (www.katesherren.org). Dr. Sherren is looking for a qualified and motivated student to study the social and landscape dimensions of renewable energy development in emerging grape-and-wine regions. The work would involve mixed qualitative methods – e.g., discourse analysis, social media analysis, stakeholder interviews using image sorting techniques.
- Masters or PhD student to work with Dr. Kirby Calvert, Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography, Environment, and Geomatics at the University of Guelph and Co-Director of the Community Energy Knowledge-Action Partnership (www.cekap.ca). Dr. Calvert is looking for a qualified and motivated student to study the social and governance dimensions of renewable energy development in emerging grape-and-wine regions. The work would involve mixed qualitative methods – e.g., discourse analysis, policy analysis, stakeholder interviews using image sorting techniques.

These projects are suitable to students with a background in geography, planning, environmental studies, resource management, energy policy, or related fields. Please send expressions of interest including (1) an up-to-date resume of CV; (2) an unofficial transcript; and (3) a brief rationale of your interest in the project, to the individual at your desired department of enrolment:



Dr. Kate Sherren, School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia via kate.sherren@dal.ca



Dr. Kirby Calvert, Department of Geography, Environment, and Geomatics, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario via calvertk@uoguelph.ca.



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