

Induction Panel

This expert panel discussion focuses on a current policy debate, representing the kinds of complex policy issues that SPPA students will grapple with in their programs and future careers.

Accelerating Energy Projects : opportunities and trade-offs

The Government of Canada is seeking to accelerate the development of major energy and infrastructure projects through the Building Canada Act (Bill C-5). This summer, the federal government initiated the process toward listing the first projects under the Act's new framework, which seeks to streamline federal approval processes for projects deemed to be in the national interest. The pursuit of faster project development brings questions of economic growth, trade diversification, Indigenous rights, environmental stewardship, and regulatory governance into tension. This panel draws on experienced policy practitioners to explore the challenges of advancing major energy projects within Canada's constitutional framework, established decision-making processes, and evolving geopolitical context. Through discussion and audience engagement, panelists will examine the opportunities, trade-offs, and key policy considerations associated with accelerating energy project development in an increasingly complex governance landscape.



Peter Massie

Director of the Cascade
Institute's
Geothermal Energy Office



Oana Spinu

Senior Policy Advisor,
Natural Resources Canada
PhD Student, SPPA



Sunny Uppal

Director General,
International Affairs,
Environment and Climate
Change Canada



Daniel Rosenbloom

Assistant Professor / Ivey
Research Chair in Sustainability
Transtions, SPPA

Friday Sept 11, 3pm-4:45pm

Richcraft Conference rooms (2nd floor)



Carleton
University

SPPA

Panel Bios



Peter Massie

Peter Massie is the Director of the Cascade Institute's Geothermal Energy Office. In this role, he also leads the Secretariat for the Canadian Deep Geothermal Coalition, developing Canada's first Deep Geothermal Roadmap. He has over a decade of experience in federal energy policy development, including techno-economic analysis, strategic policy, innovation, electricity, and oil and gas. He holds an MA in Sustainable Energy Policy from Carleton University, where he focused on both geothermal and wind energy.



Oana Spinu

Oana Spinu is an interdisciplinary social scientist with a focus on Arctic and Indigenous issues across multiple policy domains. Her career has spanned the private sector, Indigenous organizations, research institutions, and the public service. She holds a BSc, with Distinction, in Biology and Environmental Science from McGill University, a Graduate Diploma in Communication Studies from Concordia University, and an MA in Sustainable Energy Policy from Carleton University. Her academic work has been recognized through numerous scholarships and awards, including the Deputy Ministers' Recognition Award for Service Delivery Excellence and the Deputy Ministers' Recognition Award for Creativity and Innovation. Oana is a Senior Policy Advisor at NRCan and pursuing a PhD at Carleton University.



Sunny Uppal

Sunny Uppal has served as the Director General for International Affairs (Bilateral and Trade) at Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) since August 2026, where he leads the department's international bilateral engagement, trade-related environmental policy, and strategic partnerships to advance Canada's climate, environmental, and sustainable development priorities globally. Prior to this appointment, Sunny was the Director of Operations (DG) for the Climate, Energy and Resources team within the Energy Resources and Development Policy Secretariat (ERDP) at the Privy Council Office (PCO). Sunny also served as PCO's Co-Champion for Values and Ethics and as an Executive Advisor for the Recruitment of Policy Leaders (RPL) Program. He holds a Bachelor of Science from Western University and a Master's degree in Environmental and Health Policy from Columbia University.



Daniel Rosenbloom

Daniel Rosenbloom is an Assistant Professor and the Ivey Research Chair in Sustainability Transitions in the School of Public Policy and Administration at Carleton University. Drawing together insights from policy and transition studies, his research engages with the challenges of governing transitions to low-carbon and net-zero emissions energy systems. He has published widely on energy and climate policy, sustainability transitions, and the governance of technological and industrial change. His current research explores processes of acceleration in sustainability transitions, the politics of electrification, and the development of decision-support tools for navigating alternative transition pathways.