

OSKAR VON MILLER FORUM

Press Release

The Economic Opportunities behind a Smart Energy Transition

A lecture by Prof. Dr. Claudia Kemfert / German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) on January 19, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Oskar von Miller Forum

The energy transition aims to increase the share of electricity generated from renewable sources from currently around 28% to 80% in 2050. The nuclear power plants still in operation particularly in southern Germany will shut down by 2022. Further objectives pursued include improved energy efficiency in buildings and the move towards sustainability in mobility.

The energy transition hence aims at achieving lasting sustainability in energy supply. We must begin to phase out coal now and support the structural change this entails. Renewable forms of energy should not be thwarted but further developed while increasing the reliability of renewable energy supply. At the same time, we have to do more to save energy and gear mobility more towards sustainability. A smart energy transition holds enormous economic opportunities. We should not miss them.

About

Prof. Dr. Claudia Kemfert has been head of the Department of Energy, Transportation, Environment of the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) since April 2004 and is a professor of Energy Economics and Sustainability at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin. She is an economic expert in the fields of energy research and climate protection.

Claudia Kemfert was appointed to the Advisory Council on the Environment at the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety in 2016. She was an advisor to EU President José Manuel Barroso and is a member of the advisory boards for diverse research institutions and ministries at national and state levels. In 2012, Norbert Röttgen (CDU) selected her for his shadow cabinet as Energy Minister in North Rhine-Westphalia and in 2013, Thorsten Schäfer-Gümbel (SPD) appointed her Energy Commissioner in the federal state of Hesse. She is an award-winning top-level researcher and a much sought-after policy and media expert. In 2011, she won the Urania Medal and the B.A.U.M Environment Award in the Science category, and in 2016 the German Solar Award and the Adam Smith Prize for Environmental Economic Policy.

In 2013, her book *The Battle About Electricity* was published, in which she describes prevailing myths in the energy policy debate. (www.claudiakemfert.de)