



**Environment at the crossroads.
Aiming for a sustainable future.**
Gulbenkian Conference 2009
27 and 28 October

A New Sustainability Politics under the Obama Administration: Progress and Obstacles

Miranda Schreurs

President Barack Obama's victory in the 2008 presidential election arose many environmental hopes and expectations both domestically and internationally. What signs are there of a new sustainability politics in the United States, what special characteristics does "sustainability"

take on in the United States, and what are the obstacles to a major shift towards sustainability? Through the lense of climate change politics, this presentation will consider what signs of change are already evident and where US environment and green energy politics are headed.



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Miranda A. Schreurs is director of the Environmental Policy Research Centre, Professor of Comparative Politics at the Freie Universität Berlin, and member of the German Environment Advisory Council. Prior to this she was Associate Professor in the Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland. Her work focuses on comparative environmental and energy politics and policy. She was born and raised in the United States and has also lived for extended periods in Japan and briefly in the Netherlands prior to moving to Germany in 2007. Her PhD (1996) is from the University of Michigan and her MA and BA from the University of Washington. She has held fellowships from the SSRC-MacArthur Foundation Program on International Peace and Security Affairs, the Fulbright Foundation (Japan and Germany), and the National Science Foundation/Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. She is currently Fulbright Distinguished Scholar Leader of the New Century Scholar's Program, The University as Innovation Driver and Knowledge Center. Her books include: (Co-ed. with Henrik Selin and Stacy VanDeveer): *Transatlantic Environment and Energy Politics: Comparative and International Perspectives* (Ashgate 2009); *Environmental Politics in Japan, Germany, and the United States* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002); (translation and editing by Shinichi Nagao): *Chikyu Kankyo Mondai no Hiko Seijigaku: Nihon, Doitsu, Amerika* (Tokyo: Iwanami Press, 2007); (with Elim Papadakis): *Historical Dictionary of the Green Movement* (Blue Ridge Summit, PA: Scarecrow Press, 2007); (Co-ed. with In-taek Hyun): *The Environmental Dimensions of Asian Security: Cooperation and Conflict over Pollution, Energy, and Resources* (Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press, 2007); (Co-ed. with Hidefumi Imura): *Environmental Policy in Japan* (Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, USA: Edward Elgar, 2005); (Co-ed. with Elizabeth Economy): *The Internationalization of Environmental Protection* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press); and (Co-ed. with Dennis Pirages): *Ecological Security in Northeast Asia* (Seoul: Yonsei University Press, 1998).