

## **The new era of climate policy: Spurring energy transition through side-effects**

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To achieve substantial emission reduction calls for systemic changes in production and consumption patterns, which require leapfrogging in innovations and/or lifestyle changes. The meagre track record of the current cap-and-trade path under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) can at best be characterised as a tiny but costly adjustment of the carbon society. The Kyoto Protocol appears to fall short of the already low expectations of its capacity to reduce green house gas emissions. And the negotiations continue to linger. If countries were to implement the most stringent reductions they proposed at the UN Climate Conference in Cancun in December 2010, applying the most rigorous accounting, we still fall short by at least eight Gigatonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents per year to be on the politically agreed 2°C trajectory at 2020. And many argue that even this target is far from enough to avoid adverse consequences of human influences on the atmosphere.

An alternate route is to stimulate policies and measures, which reduce green house gas emissions as a side effect of other policy goals, such as energy security. Such policies thrive outside the international climate diplomacy. The question is whether the international agreement can further boost domestic initiatives on renewable energy. Or international climate diplomacy approaching its expiration date? Are private or public-private initiatives the real drivers of a transition toward a low-carbon society? In his presentation, professor Linnér will discuss possible avenues in international climate policy for renewable energy transition. For example Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions by developing countries decided on in the latest climate negotiations in Cancún. By capturing co-benefits between national sustainable development goals and mitigation it could become an instrument for creating incentives for systemic change, for example, through internationally supported policies for renewable energy standards or large scale investments in research and development.