



COLUMBIA | SIPA

Center on Global Energy Policy

Executive Director

Introduction

The [Center on Global Energy Policy \(CGEP\)](#) at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) invites applications and nominations for the role of Executive Director.

Since its founding, CGEP has emerged as a powerful platform for leading scholars to engage in meaningful research, dialogue, and action on today's most pressing global energy challenges. From the threat of climate change to escalating geopolitical risks to technological disruptions, the global energy system is undergoing profound change. CGEP's role has never been more essential to improve understanding through rigorous research, shape the public dialogue around energy, identify policy and other solutions for public and private sector leaders, and teach the next generation of leaders. Joining CGEP at a pivotal moment of growth, the Executive Director will seize the opportunity to develop an administrative strategy that will enhance the Center's internal systems and ensure CGEP continues its upward trajectory as an academic hub for research, engagement, and teaching on global energy policy.

To do this, CGEP's Executive Director must excel at leading and managing a complex unit comprised of diverse scholars, leaders, practitioners, and students within the arenas of energy policy, research, or practice. She/he/they must be organized, communicative, globally engaged, and deeply dedicated to serving the Center's mission of integrating scholarship and practice within public and private sectors to affect positive change in the world's approach to energy systems.

The Center on Global Energy Policy

Overview

CGEP is supported by Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and through contributions from different sources including foundations, corporations, and individual donors. CGEP's mission is to enable public and private sector leaders to make more informed choices about the world's most pressing energy issues by providing an independent and interdisciplinary platform for insights and data-driven analysis, convening and information-sharing, education and training, and making actionable recommendations on the current and future global energy system.

Currently, the Center comprises approximately 30 full-time staff, 10 part-time staff, and another 30 or so affiliate faculty members across the university, including at the Earth Institute and schools of engineering, law, business, and more. CGEP's scholarship and research spans topics such as: [Carbon](#)

[Tax](#); [Carbon Management](#); [Climate Change & Environment](#); [Energy for Development](#); [Energy Markets](#); [Energy Security](#); [Geopolitics](#); [Innovation & Technology](#); [International Security](#); [Natural Gas](#); [Nuclear Energy](#); [Oil](#); [Power Sector](#); and [Renewable Energy](#).

CGEP supports its mission through a number of key programs and initiatives, adhering to the following overarching strategies:

- Produce best-in-class research rooted in academic work, but delivered in formats and on timeframes that are accessible and useful to those outside academia;
- Provide a global platform to communicate the insights from that research across traditional and new media, public events, and private roundtables, leveraging Columbia's exceptional faculty and global reach; and
- Train tomorrow's leaders and communicators by teaching students how to conduct and apply research, training journalists and others on the key factors influencing the global energy system, and providing opportunities and mentorship to the next generation of energy policy and market leaders.

Based at one of the world's great research universities, the Center combines academic research with the experience of senior energy experts from government, academia, industry and non-governmental organizations. The result is robust, accessible and actionable analysis, which the Center disseminates through public forums, research, roundtable discussions, conferences and the media. In addition to its ability to harness the world-class faculty of Columbia across many disciplines, the Center utilizes the University's global reach through its 10 physical centers in key energy countries including Brazil, India, China, and many others.

Research and Scholarship

CGEP is committed to world-class scholarship and research, awarding grants to support faculty research and public policy analysis focused on topics relevant to CGEP's mission. This includes policy-relevant work on economic, geopolitical, technical, institutional and environmental issues related to the production and consumption of energy. Additionally, CGEP funds Ph.D. students in Sustainable Development, and CGEP's Postdoctoral Fellowship program supports interdisciplinary research and understanding about key global energy issues through partnerships across the Columbia University community. CGEP awards fellowship positions to innovative postdoctoral scholars focusing on one of its core disciplines including: renewable energy, oil and natural gas, geopolitics, energy markets and finance, climate change and the environment, technology and innovation.

The Center for Global Energy Policy also supports a [book series](#), in concert with Columbia University Press, that showcases publications on a wide range of issues relating to global energy.

Initiatives

In addition to serving as an academic center for world-class researchers and scholars, CGEP is committed to strengthening the field of global energy policy through a number of key initiatives that support and engage the broader academic and professional community. These initiatives include Women in Energy, the Energy Journalism Initiative, and CGEP's Book Series.

Women in Energy

The Women in Energy program elevates women in energy by advancing equality and opportunity. WIE seeks to address institutional barriers to entry, help organizations and companies to improve retention, and empower women to achieve career growth through educational programming, enhanced visibility, and broader networks. The WIE approach aims to:

- Build a "Women in Energy" community to support women and student access to networking opportunities with women professionals in the field;
- Provide leadership skills training, workshops and mentoring;
- Facilitate internship opportunities, full-time employment and related practical experience in the energy space; and
- Provide funding to exceptional students pursuing academic research opportunities and summer internships.

Additionally, the goals for the program include:

- Increase interest in energy and increase the number of women entering the field;
- Offer enhanced educational programming;
- Establish programs and initiatives that can be replicated;
- Build partnerships and collaborations; and
- Raise the visibility of women.

Energy Journalism

The Columbia Energy Journalism Initiative seeks to educate journalists about the various disciplines associated with the energy sector, including policy, markets, finance, climate change, technology and geopolitics. Moreover, it introduces participants to a variety of leading sources who can help inform their reporting on this vital topic. The Initiative held its first program in summer 2017, and looks forward to evolving in subsequent years with additional support to offer more resources, programs and technology tools that meet the changing needs of energy journalism. The program's initial phase is supported with generous support from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and CGEP Advisory Board Members Reid Hoffman and Jim Rogers.

The Initiative features a three-day seminar held at CGEP's New York City headquarters for energy journalists. The seminar is taught by a selection of academic, business and public-sector experts and focused on various topics critical to the global energy debate.

Future Goals and Strategic Planning

Over the last 18 months, the Center has been engaged in a long-term strategic planning effort to shape and support CGEP's future growth and impact. The Center's developing strategic and operational plan aims to expand CGEP's global reach and further position it as a leading institution for world-class energy research and policy. Initial planning discussions have identified key strategic priorities, including: investing in operational excellence; expanding research and programs; increasing research and impact; and executing on a global mission. The incoming Executive Director will have the opportunity to further define strategic and operational goals and objectives and lead efforts to continue to implement the plan in the coming years.

Additionally, growth plans will include increasing staff, research scholars, and faculty, building resources through a capital campaign, and planning for physical space and resource expansion.

CGEP Leadership

Founding Director [Jason Bordoff](#) joined the Columbia faculty after serving until January 2013 as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Energy and Climate Change on the Staff of the National Security Council, and, prior to that, holding senior policy positions on the White House's National Economic Council and Council on Environmental Quality.

One of the world's top energy policy experts, he joined the Administration in April 2009. At Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, Bordoff is a professor of professional practice and serves as founding Director of Columbia's Center on Global Energy Policy. Bordoff's research and policy interests lie at the intersection of economics, energy, environment, and national security.

He is a frequent commentator on TV and radio, including NPR, Bloomberg, CNBC and BBC, has appeared on the Colbert Report, and has published in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Financial Times and other leading news outlets.

Prior to joining the White House, Bordoff was the Policy Director of the Hamilton Project, an economic policy initiative housed at the Brookings Institution. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the National Petroleum Council, and serves on the boards of Winrock International (a leading nonprofit organization that works to empower the disadvantaged, increase economic opportunity, and sustain natural resources) and the New York Energy Forum. During the Clinton Administration, Bordoff served as an advisor to the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Treasury Department. He was also a consultant with McKinsey & Company, one of the leading global strategy consultancies.

Bordoff graduated with honors from Harvard Law School, where he was treasurer and an editor of the Harvard Law Review, and clerked on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. He also holds an MLitt degree from Oxford University, where he studied as a Marshall Scholar, and a B.A. magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Brown University.

Advisory Board

CGEP is supported by the expertise and guidance of leaders across a range of sectors who make up the Center's [30-member](#) advisory board. The board is currently being restructured and high-graded. Executing this process successfully will be an important priority for the incumbent.

About Columbia University and SIPA

The University

Columbia University is a private, Ivy League, research university in Upper Manhattan, New York City. It was established in 1754 as King's College by royal charter of George II of Great Britain. A 1787 charter placed the institution under a private board of trustees before it was renamed Columbia University in 1896, when the campus was moved from Madison Avenue to its current location in Morningside Heights, occupying land of 32 acres. Columbia is one of the 14 founding members of the Association of American Universities, and was the first school in the United States to grant the M.D. degree.

The University is organized into 20 schools, including Columbia College, the School of Engineering and Applied Science and the School of General Studies. The University also has global research outposts in Amman, Beijing, Istanbul, Paris, Mumbai, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago, and Nairobi. It has affiliations with several other institutions nearby, including Teachers College, Barnard College and Union Theological Seminary, with joint undergraduate programs available through the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Sciences Po Paris and the Juilliard School. Columbia annually administers the Pulitzer Prize.

Notable alumni and former students (including those from King's College) include five founding fathers of the United States; nine justices of the United States Supreme Court; 20 living billionaires; 29 Academy Award winners; and 29 heads of state, including three United States presidents. Additionally, some 100 Nobel laureates have been affiliated with Columbia as students, faculty or staff.

SIPA

Columbia University's School of International Affairs was founded in 1946 in the aftermath of World War II. Emphasizing practical training, the School's mission was to foster understanding of geographic regions of vital interest and to prepare diplomats, officials, and other professionals to meet the complex needs of the postwar world.

The School originated in dynamic regional institutes that drew on Columbia's renowned resources in history, economics, political science, linguistics, and other fields, showing an interdisciplinary vision considered bold for its day. During the 1950s and 1960s, the School expanded in scope and depth. SIA, as it was then called, developed a national and international reputation as a leading center for educational and research programs in area studies, security, and international relations. By 1967, the School was home to eight regional institutes, covering nearly every corner of the globe. Originally housed in a row of brownstones, the School moved to a new building on Columbia University's east campus in 1971.

In 1981, the School was renamed the [School of International and Public Affairs \(SIPA\)](#). Then, in the early 1990s, SIPA began appointing its own faculty, adding to the list of distinguished social and natural scientists and humanists already at the University.

As it has for more than seven decades, SIPA provides committed students with the necessary skills and perspectives to become responsible leaders in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Center are realized and supported by internal processes and systems that reflect the needs and stature of a globally prominent research and policy organization. She/he/they will have the opportunity to address the needs of the Center in areas such as technology, physical space, staff hiring and development, budget processes, fellows support, donor engagement, and others as identified.

The Role of Executive Director, Center on Global Energy Policy

Reporting to the Center's Founding Director Jason Bordoff, the incoming Executive Director will lead the daily operations of the Center and play a leading role in guiding its strategic growth during an exciting time of planning and development. She/he/they will work closely with, and develop, the Center's leadership team, including: an Assistant Director of Administration; a Senior Director

of Development; a Director of Communications and Digital Media; an Executive Director of Strategy and Operations; a Director, Women in Energy Program; a Director of Research Publications; an Events Manager; and a Senior Executive Assistant.

Key responsibilities of the Executive Director will include:

- Leading the day-to-day management and operations of the Center, including the following areas: development, finance, publications, communications, operations, special projects, and events, among others;
- Managing the Center's growing annual budget and prioritizing funding for maximum impact;
- Building an inclusive, supportive, and rewarding culture;
- Working with the Founding Director and officers of research in organizing and executing the research portfolio of the Center;
- Working with the Founding Director to continue to position the Center for rapid growth over the next 3-5 years;
- Working with the Founding Director in engaging the external Advisory Board;
- Working with the Founding Director and Faculty Steering Committee to deepen the integration of CGEP with faculty across Columbia;
- Engaging with University leadership from SIPA, Earth Institute, Engineering School, Law School, Business School, Provost Office, Alumni and Development, and elsewhere, on collaborations and deepening engagement across faculty and students;
- Playing a leading role in overseeing team members' work planning and professional development;
- Managing creation and successful execution of new projects and activities (e.g. Distinguished Fellows Program, Executive Education offerings, Young Leaders in Energy program, etc.);
- Engaging with the media, policymakers, academics, donors, and other outside stakeholders; and
- Performing other duties as assigned.

Opportunities and Challenges for the next Executive Director

As the first Executive Director for the Center, this person will have the singular opportunity to capture the momentum of the Center and create and implement lasting structures that will ensure continued growth, excellence, and impact. With the support of Founding Director Jason Bordoff and CGEP's Advisory Board, the Executive Director will prioritize the following opportunities and challenges:

- **Cooperatively plan and implement a visionary strategy for the Center's future** – After more than six successful years of research, policy impact, and engagement in the global conversation around energy policy, the Center is currently engaged in a strategic planning process that will define its immediate and long-term strategic priorities and identify actionable means for achieving continued excellence and influence. The incoming Executive Director will be a key thought partner in this process. She/he/they will help finalize and implement the plan, bringing experienced judgment and creative perspective that will help balance growth and operational stability.

- **Develop and implement an operational strategy that supports CGEP's growth** – Infrastructure developments that both promote and support the Center's growth are crucial. The Executive Director will be instrumental in ensuring that the aspirations of the Center are realized and supported by internal processes and systems that reflect the needs and stature of a globally prominent research and policy organization. She/he/they will have the opportunity to address the needs of the Center in areas such as technology, physical space, staff hiring and development, budget processes, fellows support, donor engagement, and others as identified.
- **Serve as a leading voice and spokesperson on behalf of the Center** – The Executive Director will be a powerful voice for the Center, serving as a bridge builder between CGEP and its broader network, including partners and supporters within the University, prospective collaborators and partners at other institutions and organizations, policymakers, fellows, donors, board members, and others. She/he/they will also take an active part in CGEP's first capital campaign, meeting with current and potential supporters to help tell the story of the Center and engage others to take part in its success and impact.

Desired Qualifications and Personal Characteristics

The ideal candidate for the Executive Director position will bring deep experience in managing a rapidly growing organization and balancing a diverse portfolio of strategic planning, University engagement, staff development, budgeting, and project and operational management. Additional minimum professional qualifications include:

- At least 15 years of management and organizational leadership experience, including a strong commitment to supervising and developing staff;
- Demonstrated entrepreneurial experience, including formulating and executing a strategic plan in support of growing and scaling an organization in terms of staff, budget, activity and impact;
- Exceptional project management experience with a strong attention to detail and the ability to manage quick-turnaround deliverables, long-term strategy implementation, reporting, and metrics tracking; and
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to work well on a team in a fast-paced environment.

Building on this base of qualifications, CGEP's first Executive Director should bring many of the following complementary abilities and experiences:

- The energy, enthusiasm, and ability to secure funds on behalf of the Center, including garnering continued support from the private sector and governmental sources;
- The ability to represent CGEP to a wide array of constituents to bolster research and scholarship opportunities internally and communicate this work externally;
- Facility with large budgets and a record of effectively allocating resources;
- A commitment to policies and practices that promote sustainable energy systems and the protection of the Earth's natural resources;
- Demonstrated leadership practices that foster diversity, inclusion, and equity within an organization and a history of promoting initiatives and practices that support scholars and practitioners from underrepresented groups;

- A dynamic presence and desire to engage with leaders and researchers from diverse fields within energy and energy policy;
- Demonstrated success in developing and motivating internal teams, especially those consisting of world-class researchers and thought leaders;
- Excellent decision-making and delegating abilities paired with a collegial, inclusive, and consensus-building approach to implementing change;
- A clear and relatable communication style, with the skills to adapt information delivery to a wide array of internal and external constituents; and
- A record of success collaborating with a board of advisors.

The following qualifications are also preferred:

- An advanced degree (M.A., M.B.A., J.D., Ph.D.);
- Experience working in higher education; and
- Experience with issues central to CGEP activities (energy policy, climate change, international security, economics, etc.).

For best consideration, please send all nominations and expressions of interest electronically and in confidence to:

Shelly Weiss Storbeck, Managing Partner
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