

# Can we afford green policies during an economic downturn?

27 June 2012 | 15:30-17:30

University of Economics | Winston Churchill sq. 4

Room no. RB 101

## The perceived trade-off between environmental / climate policy and economic growth

Environmental policies are often presented and perceived as too costly to be pursued in times of economic downturn. The scientific knowledge often remains at odds with lay perceptions about the necessity, affordability and cost-effectiveness of environmental policies as well as their broader societal and economic impacts. This panel strives to bring together academics, scientists, policy makers, journalists and economists to discuss arguments for and against the perceived trade-offs, win-win solutions and consequences of stringent economic policies for environmental / climate policy in both national (i.e. Czech) and international settings.

### Panellists:

**Reyer Gerlagh** (Tilburg University) - keynote

**Karel Janda** (Charles University)

**Ondřej Liška** (Czech Green Party)

**Jan Macháček** (Respekt)

**Radek Špicar** (Confederation of Industry)

**Ondřej Šrámek** (Knauf Insulation)

No admission fee. Light refreshment will be served after the discussion.  
Register at [www.eaere2012.org/programme/pre-conference](http://www.eaere2012.org/programme/pre-conference)

The panel is organized by the Charles University Environment Center and supported by the Heinrich Böll Stiftung on the occasion of the 19th Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists.

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## Panellists Profiles

**Reyer Gerlagh** is Professor at Tilburg University, associate editor of Energy Economics, and coordinating lead author of the fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (WG III). He has published many articles on climate change policy, technological change, sustainability, natural resources, and the green paradox.

**Karel Janda** is currently visiting professor at Australian National University. He is professor of finance at University of Economics, Prague, RWE-Transgas Chair in Economics at Charles University in Prague and affiliate fellow at CERGE-EI. He currently works on the economics of energy security, especially on renewable energy resources and energy demand.

**Ondřej Liška** is the chairman of the Green Party, in 2006-2010 was a member of the Parliament and served as Minister of Education (2007-2009). He graduated in political science and religion studies at Masaryk University Brno. He is a founding member of nu-jazz music group Lesní zvěř.

**Jan Macháček** is a journalist and musician. Since 1990s he has written on economic transformation for Respekt, in 2002-2008 he was a commentator with Hospodářské noviny and from 2008 with Respekt. He has been repeatedly awarded for his investigative and analytical writing. He is a member of the board of Transparency International, member of the board of the Václav Havel Library and teaches journalism at NYU Prague.

**Radek Špicar** worked as Head of External Affairs at Škoda Auto for the past 6 years. At present, he is the Director of the Czech branch of the American think-tank Aspen Institute. He also serves as Vice-President of the Federation of Industry and Transportation of the Czech Republic and is a member of the Corporate Council of Vaclav Havel's Forum 2000 Foundation.

**Ondřej Šrámek** graduated from University of Economics Prague as Master of International Politics and later PhD in political science. Prior to joining the global insulation manufacturer Knauf Insulation, he worked in public administration and public affairs consultancy. In his current role he is responsible for lobbying for energy efficiency and sustainable construction in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

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