



## COPENMIND 2008

Lunch session on 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2008

From 13h00 to 14h30, Room C1-M4  
Bella Center | Center Boulevard 5 | DK-2300 Copenhagen S  
[www.copenmind.com](http://www.copenmind.com)

### Energy and water footprints - Linking Water Management, Sustainable Development and Energy consumption

The links between water and energy are often overlooked in the debate about climate change. The impact of different forms of energy production on water availability and quality is one aspect of this. Another aspect is the energy consumption related to different forms of water use and infrastructure. Hydropower is an energy form that is quite low in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, but it has a large consumption of water due to evapo-transpiration especially in warm climate.

With climate change increasing water availability in dry areas this link is increasingly important. In EU today it has been estimated that 30% of freshwater withdrawals is for energy production and even today there are problems related to this. During the drought in 2005 hydropower fell to its lowest in 48 years. France, Spain, and Germany were forced to take some nuclear plants offline and reduce operations at others, and all across Western Europe, nuclear plants were forced to discharge overheated water into the environment.

The concept of footprints was originally developed to resource footprints of different products, but it has been developed further to look into water footprints of all kinds of products as a way of estimating the amount of water consumed to provide a good or service. They can be used to assist in the decision-making process regarding the application of different energy options.

This session will mainly look into the water footprints of energy production and ways how to reduce it from different perspectives.

#### Speakers invited at this session are:

- Henrik Larsen, DHI Water Policy, DK
- Christer Söderberg, Vice-President, ESHA (European Small Hydropower Association), BE
- Adriana Hulsmann, KIWA Water Research, NL
- Per Gundersen, University of Copenhagen, Department of Forest and Landscape-applied ecology, DK

#### Danish Water Forum

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