

OSKAR VON MILLER FORUM

Press Release

Thirst for Power: Energy, Water and Human Survival

A lecture by Micheal E. Webber / University of Texas, Austin, USA on 23 June 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Oskar von Miller Forum

How can we change the way we think about water and energy to secure the long-term sustainability of both precious resources? Although it is widely understood that energy and water are the world's two most critical resources, their vital interconnections and vulnerabilities are less often recognized. Michael E. Webber, a teacher and researcher in the field of energy technology and policy, will explain in his lecture, how energy and water supplies are linked and how problems in either can be crippling for the other. Webber shows that current population growth, economic growth, climate change, and short-sighted policies are likely to make things worse. He will demonstrate how an integrated planning with long-term sustainability will support a reliable and abundant future.

Michael Webber is author of ""Thirst for Power: Energy, Water and Human Survival" (www.thirstforpower.com). This farsighted book offers a new, holistic way of thinking about energy and water—a big picture approach that reveals the interdependence of the two resources, identifies the seriousness of the challenges, and lays out an optimistic approach with an array of solutions to ensure the continuing sustainability of both.

About Michael E. Webber

As Deputy Director of the Energy Institute, Co-Director of the Clean Energy Incubator, Josey Centennial Fellow in Energy Resources, and Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Michael E. Webber trains the next generation of energy leaders at the University of Texas at Austin through research and education at the convergence of engineering, policy, and commercialization. He has authored more than 200 publications, holds four patents, and serves on the advisory board for *Scientific American*. His television special *Energy at the Movies* is currently in national syndication on PBS stations, and his massive open online course (MOOC) "Energy 101" closed with record results in December. Webber holds a B.S. and B.A. from UT Austin and M.S. and Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Stanford. He was honored as an American Fellow of the German Marshall Fund, an AT&T Industrial Ecology Fellow, and on three separate occasions by the University of Texas for exceptional teaching.