



**Kyle Swartz**  
**DBREV Scholar 2016-2017**

***REIPPPP's socio economic development potential***

The discussion will explore the developmental capabilities of the REIPPPP based on a case study research on the Hopefield Home Improvement Project implemented by Umoya Energy (Hopefield Wind Farm), and the impact the project has made in the beneficiary community.

Kyle completed his undergraduate degree in Geography, Environmental and Sustainability Studies at the University of the Western Cape where his undergraduate pursuits have been largely driven by an interest in a career in the renewable energy sector. In 2016, after completing his undergraduate degree, Kyle spent one year as an intern based within the Energy and Climate Change Unit at the City of Cape Town where his renewable energy interest developed into addressing energy access, energy poverty and developmental challenges faced in the Global South.

In late 2016, Kyle was awarded the Doug Banks Renewable Energy Vision Scholarship towards a Masters degree at Stellenbosch University. His Masters research explores how socio-economic development funds, made available by developers within the REIPPPP, can be effectively used to address energy access and energy poverty in beneficiary communities. As part of his Masters journey Kyle is part of the Renewable Energy Transitions research team established at the Centre for Complex Systems in Transition at Stellenbosch University. The research group, headed by Prof Mark Swilling, supports a team of postgraduate researchers who study the developmental impacts of the REIPPPP.

Kyle currently works as a part-time research intern at the Management Programme in Infrastructure Reform & Regulation at the Graduate School of Business, University of Cape Town where he assists with research on renewable energy auctions and private power investment in sub-Saharan Africa.