

Cecilia Springer, Principal Associate

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Synapse Energy Economics, Cambridge, MA. *Principal Associate*, July 2025 - Present.

- Provides consulting and research, conducts modeling and analysis, and prepares expert reports on issues including industrial decarbonization, carbon and energy policy, electrification, and clean energy siting.
- Serves as lead for industrial decarbonization within Synapse's Policy and Planning practice area
- Responsible for maintenance and development of Synapse's in-house Techno-economic Industrial Decarbonization Evaluator (TIDE) model

Global Efficiency Intelligence, LLC. St. Petersburg, FL. *Principal*, 2017–2019, 2023 – July 2025.

- Advised a wide range of clients, including philanthropies, NGOs, tech companies, apparel brands, and international organizations on decarbonization strategies for industry
- Led research and techno-economic modeling for numerous projects, leading to publications on technologies and policies for decarbonization for steel, cement, aluminum, textiles, pulp and paper, food and beverages, and other sectors
- Served as Co-Director of the Industrial Electrification Center, advancing knowledge on electrification as a decarbonization strategy

Boston University Global Development Policy Center, Boston, MA. *Assistant Director*, Global China Initiative, 2020–2023.

- Directed the Global China Initiative, including a team of over a dozen staff, students, and pre- and post-doctoral fellows
- Guided strategy development for internal programs
- Led research, database development, and quantitative modeling as team lead for the energy and climate team within the Global China Initiative
- Managed collaborations with external partners around the world, including universities and NGOs in China, Indonesia, Brazil, South Africa, and other countries.
- Represented the Center in policy and media communications to bring Center research to a wider audience through blogs, press releases, media interviews, stakeholder briefings, and speaking at high-level events
- Currently a Non-Resident Fellow, continuing to provide strategic input and research collaboration

Climate Advisers, Washington, DC. *Senior Associate*, 2012–2014.

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- Conducted research and managed projects on a wide range of topics, including sustainable agricultural supply chains, electric vehicles, and carbon pricing
 - Founding team member of the Chain Reaction Research project, providing risk assessment for financial institutions interested in their ESG footprints
 - Contributed to advocacy efforts that led to landmark no-deforestation agreements by major agribusinesses

U.S. Department of State, China. *Fulbright Fellow*, 2011–2012.

- Conducted research on the Tianjin Eco-City in affiliation with a host research lab at Nankai University
- Participated in collaboration and exchange programs to advance US-China diplomacy

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Postdoctoral Fellow, Belfer Center (Harvard Kennedy School), 2019–2020

University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

MS/PhD in Energy and Resources, 2014–2019

Brown University, Providence, RI

BSc in Environmental Science, 2007–2011

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Springer, C., T. Nguyen, I. Weiss, S. Sharaf, P. Eash-Gates, M. Whited. 2026. Rate Design to Unlock Industrial Electrification. Synapse Energy Economics for The Center for Applied Environmental Law and Policy.

Metz, L., C. Springer, P. Eash-Gates, I. Weiss. 2026. Assessment of Decarbonization Pathways for California’s Cement Sector. Synapse energy Economics and Clean Air Task Force.

Springer, C., P. Knight. 2026. “AEO 2026 shows the growing importance of electricity affordability across the economy.” Synapse Energy Economics. Available at: <https://www.synapse-energy.com/aeo-2026-shows-growing-importance-electricity-affordability-across-economy>.

Eash-Gates, P., J. Hittinger, A. Fuzaylov, A. Hopkins, C. Springer. 2025. New England Industrial Electrification. Synapse Energy Economics for Conservative Law Foundation.

Springer, C., A. Hasanbeigi, and C. Savel. 2025. “Industrial Electrification with Heat Pumps in California, Colorado, and Washington.” Global Efficiency Intelligence.

Springer, C., and A. Hasanbeigi. 2025. "Textile Heating Electrification Tool." Global Efficiency Intelligence.

Springer, C., and A. Hasanbeigi. 2025. "Data Centers in the AI Era: Energy and Emissions Impacts in the U.S. and Key States." Global Efficiency Intelligence.

Lu, Y., C. Springer, and B. Steffen. 2024. "Cofinancing and Infrastructure Project Outcomes in Chinese Lending and Overseas Development Finance." *World Development* 175: 106473.

Springer, C., A. Hasanbeigi, and A. Sibal. 2024. "Electrifying European Industry: Part 2 – Electric Boilers and Industrial Heat Pumps." Global Efficiency Intelligence.

Lewis, J., and C. Springer. 2024. "Opportunities for U.S.-China Engagement on Development Finance for Overseas Renewable Energy." *Energy and Climate Management* 1.

Springer, C., and A. Hasanbeigi. 2024. "Electrification of Paper Mills in India." Global Efficiency Intelligence.

Springer, C., K. Tang, C. Nedopil, C. Alden, and C. Van Staden. 2023. "Elevating ESG: Empirical Lessons on Environmental, Social and Governance Implementation of Chinese Projects in Africa." SSRN Scholarly Paper No. 4562949. Social Science Research Network.

Springer, C. 2022. "China's Withdrawal from Overseas Coal in Context." *World Development Perspectives* 25: 100397.

Yang, X., Y. Gao, M. Zhu, and C. Springer. 2022. "Assessing Methane Emissions From the Natural Gas Industry: Reviewing the Case of China in a Comparative Framework." *Current Climate Change Reports*: 1–10.

Xiahou, Q., C. Springer, and R. Mendelsohn. 2022. "The Effect of Foreign Investment on Asian Coal Power Plants." *Energy Economics* 105: 105752.

Springer, C., S. Evans, and F. Teng. 2021. "An Empirical Analysis of the Environmental Performance of China's Overseas Coal Plants." *Environmental Research Letters* 16(5).

Hou, J., X. Deng, C. Springer, and F. Teng. 2020. "A Global Analysis of CO₂ and Non-CO₂ GHG Emissions Embodied in Trade with Belt and Road Initiative Countries." *Ecosystem Health and Sustainability* 6, no. 1: 1761888.

Springer, C., S. Evans, J. Lin, and D. Roland-Holst. 2019. "Low Carbon Growth in China: The Role of Emissions Trading in a Transitioning Economy." *Applied Energy* 235: 1118–25.

Moore, F., J. Rising, N. Lollo, C. Springer, V. Vasquez, A. Dolginow, C. Hope, and D. Anthoff. 2018. "Mimi-PAGE, an Open-Source Implementation of the PAGE09 Integrated Assessment Model." *Scientific Data* 5, no. 1: 180187.

Moran, D., A. Hasanbeigi, and C. Springer. 2018. "The Carbon Loophole in Climate Policy." KGM and Associates, Global Efficiency Intelligence, and ClimateWorks Foundation.

Springer, C. 2018. "Assessing Energy Intensity and Retrofit Opportunities for the Aluminum Industry: Lessons from Vietnam." *Resources, Conservation and Recycling* 131:235–246.

Springer, C. and A. Hasanbeigi. 2017. "Emerging Energy Efficiency and Carbon Dioxide Emissions-Reduction Technologies for the Glass Industry." Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Springer, C., and A. Hasanbeigi. 2016. "Emerging Energy Efficiency and Carbon Dioxide Emissions-Reduction Technologies for Industrial Production of Aluminum." Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

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