



**NAME**

Bent Sørensen

**TITLE OF PRESENTATION**

History of energy - impact of technological innovation

**ABSTRACT OF PRESENTATION**

The development of energy use in Northern Europe is investigated, with emphasis on the region that some 13-1400 years ago became Denmark, and using evidence from archaeological finds, climate science and the written documents from the more recent periods. The role of energy technology in permitting changes in society and, together with changes in food provision technologies, in allowing sustainable living for an increasing size of population, is demonstrated, with possible lessons relevant for the present debate on handling the required energy, economy and environmental management transitions. My recent book “A History of Energy” (Routledge, Cambridge 2011) is used as a reference.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Bent Sørensen is professor emeritus at Roskilde University (Denmark), He has held academic positions at University of California in Berkeley, Yale University, The National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden (US), Kyoto University (Japan), University of Grenoble (France) and University of New South Wales (Australia). He has served as advisor for the OECD, the Japanese and Australian governments, and various UN agencies, as technical director and board member of Novator and Cowi Inc., and as lead author for the IPCC working group on climate change mitigation (Nobel Peace Prize, 2007). He served as chairman of the Danish Energy Agency Solar Energy Committee and the Hydrogen Energy Committee, and received prizes such as the Australian-European Award for Eminent Scholars (1982) and the European Solar Prize (2002). In 1989, he was knighted by HRH Queen Margrethe of Denmark.