

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

BOARD ON ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND SOCIETY
DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AND EDUCATION

PUBLIC AGENDA

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
2101 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20418
Room 125
RSVP: Tina Latimer TLatimer@nas.edu

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

11:00 a.m. How Can Climate Change Laws Better Serve Disadvantaged Communities?

Increasingly community groups and environmental justice advocates are asking local policymakers how they fit into efforts to combat global climate change. This session will highlight initiatives by subnational governments aimed at cutting greenhouse gases while addressing the needs of local communities already facing air pollution's adverse impacts. The panel will provide examples of the importance of subnational actors' involvement in facilitating relationships among localities, states, diverse communities, and industries to address climate change. Central to this process is the demonstration that environmental protection and improving public health are linked in ways that increase the effectiveness of future climate action policies.

- Michael Mendez, Yale University

12:00 p.m. Working Lunch
Topic: Continued conversations with invited guests

12:30 p.m. Exploring Non-federal Opportunities to Address Climate Change

Across the United States an increasing number of “non-federal” actors are identifying and implementing policies and approaches to mitigate climate change. Non-federal actors – defined as those acting independent of federal government direction - include private corporations, business and trade associations, finance and insurance enterprises, states, cities and other entities (i.e., religious groups, private hospitals, civic groups, environmental organizations, households etc.). These efforts have significant potential to address climate change through the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. However, the factors determining the effectiveness of such activities have received only limited careful study. If such non-governmental efforts are to be effective, they can benefit from better organized and coordinated scientific analysis. The Board on Environmental Change and Society is exploring an activity to assess the potential of emissions reduction efforts through the actions of non-federal entities, develop advice to decision makers about how to achieve emissions reduction goals, and develop useful knowledge for identifying priorities of action informed by the latest scientific analysis. This afternoon session seeks to explore the merits of such an activity and how it could be most useful.

Moderated by Board Chair Richard Moss, the session will open with a presentation by Michael Vandenbergh and Jonathan Gilligan, both of Vanderbilt University, as they argue that we can achieve an additional billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions reductions through action in the non-federal sector. They will also present some tentative conclusions based on current knowledge and a number of research questions, which if answered correctly, could facilitate emissions reduction efforts. Their presentation will be followed by an extensive panel discussion to reflect on the presentation, explore the current state of play, discuss what is working and where there are gaps, and identify what are key considerations as efforts move forward.

Following the afternoon panel, the Board will have an open discussion of shared interests and priorities with representatives of the philanthropic community to discuss their related interests in the climate change mitigation area.

12:30 p.m. Welcome and Introductions
Richard Moss, BECS Chair

12:40 p.m. Addressing climate change through non-federal action
Michael Vandenbergh, Vanderbilt University

12:55 p.m. Issues in estimating potential emission reductions from this approach and existing research questions
Jonathan Gilligan, Vanderbilt University

1:10 p.m. Marty Spitzer, World Wildlife Fund

1:20 p.m. Bob Perciasepe, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions

1:30 p.m. Perspective Panel

Moderator: Richard Moss, BECS Chair

- *Paul Stern, Social and Environmental Research Institute*
- *Aseem Prakash, University of Washington*
- *Michael Vandenbergh, Vanderbilt University*
- *Jonathan Gilligan, Vanderbilt University*
- *Marty Spitzer, World Wildlife Fund*
- *Bob Perciasepe, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions*

2:45 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m. Open Discussion of Shared Interests and Priorities
with introductory remarks by philanthropic organization representatives

4:30 p.m. ADJOURN OPEN SESSION

4:30 p.m. Reception honoring Paul Stern and his service to the National Academies
(West Court)

Meetings and Activities of the Board on Environmental Change and Society are sponsored by:
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