

SPRING 2019

Climate Dynamics Seminar Series



Briefing on the IPCC 1.5 Degrees Report and Implications for the Clean Energy Transition and the Green New Deal

Dr. Karl Hausker

Senior Fellow in the WRI's Energy and Climate Programs

Wednesday, February 13th, 2019

1:30-2:30pm, Research Hall, Room 163



Biography:

Dr. Karl Hausker is a Senior Fellow in the Climate Program at the World Resources Institute. He leads analysis and modeling of climate mitigation, electricity market design, and the social cost of carbon. He led the Risky Business study of clean energy scenarios for the U.S., and lectures widely on deep decarbonization. He has worked for 30 years in the fields of climate change, energy, and environment in a career that has spanned legislative and executive branches, research institutions, NGOs, and consulting. Karl holds an M.P.P and Ph.D. in Public Policy from University of California, Berkley, and received his B.A. in Economics from Cornell University.

Abstract:

Last fall, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its assessment of pathways to limit global warming to 1.5°C, and documented how important this is for the environment, economic stability, and the livelihoods of billions of people. The 116th Congress has already demonstrated that it views climate change as a top priority, and members have moved quickly with the introduction of legislation and discussion of a Green New Deal.

Generating electricity with near-zero carbon emissions is the foundation all pathways to a 1.5°C world. There is widespread agreement that renewable power will provide a major, if not dominant, share of future generation in a climate-safe world. However, a vigorous debate is underway on whether renewables can supply 100% of the power needed or whether nuclear power and/or generation with carbon capture will also be needed. A related debate concerns the need for carbon capture for industrial sources and, ultimately, for carbon dioxide removal from the atmosphere.

Dr. Karl Hausker, Senior Fellow, World Resources Institute will provide a briefing on these issues, exploring how assumptions regarding the availability, performance, and integration of various technologies drive the perceived feasibility of various pathways to a 100% clean energy economy. Implications for energy policy, R&D portfolios, and political coalition-building will also be explored.