

Established in 2011, the **Center for Energy and Sustainable Development** is an energy and environmental public policy and research organization at the WVU College of Law. The Center focuses on promoting practices that will balance the continuing demand for energy resources—and the associated economic benefits—alongside the need to reduce the environmental impacts of developing the earth's natural resources.

energy.law.wvu.edu

The Friends of Blackwater, a West Virginia-based conservation group, is leading the **Allegheny Highlands Climate Change Impacts Initiative** to highlight the growing dangerous impacts and risks from global warming and climate change to the region's economy and ecology. The mission of the Allegheny Highlands Climate Change Impacts Initiative is to promote wider public awareness and discussion of the impacts and risks of climate change for the Highlands; and to support local, regional, and national climate-smart solutions that will address those impacts and risks. Since the Fall of 2013, the Initiative has engaged in research, planning, and networking to develop and implement a strategic effort to advance this mission. As part of this effort, the Initiative has had dozens of conversations with citizens around the region—and especially with persons in the scientific, professional, and educational community.

alleghenyclimate.org



Allegheny Highlands
Climate Change
Impacts Initiative

Because We Care.

501 Elizabeth Street, Charleston, WV 25311

304-345-7663 | info@saveblackwater.org | www.saveblackwater.org

Initiative Director: Thomas Rodd | 304-541-4494 | thomasrodd@hotmail.com

The organizers of this event would like to extend special thanks to:

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WVU LAW

Climate Change Panel

Climate Change, China, and the West Virginia Connection



A panel discussion hosted by
the WVU Law Center for Energy and Sustainable
Development and the Allegheny Highlands Climate
Change Impacts Initiative

Thursday, February 12, 2015 | 7:00 p.m.

West Virginia University College of Law Event hall

Sarah M. Forbes has been a senior associate at the World Resources Institute (WRI) since May 2008. She leads the technology consortium within the climate and energy program, managing the WRI initiatives on shale gas and carbon dioxide capture and storage (CCS) in China. This research is aimed at developing tools and analyses that inform regulatory developments and standards, with a focus on environmental and social integrity. WRI is a non-profit environmental think-tank that works at the intersection of human and environment needs. Sarah began working on joint US-China issues in 2008 and partnered with Tsinghua University to lead a bilateral stakeholder process which led to the publication of “Guidelines for Carbon Dioxide Capture Transport and Storage in China.” This work followed the successful effort Sarah led to develop the “Guidelines for Carbon Dioxide Capture, Transport and Storage,” a robust set of technical guidelines for how to responsibly proceed with safe CCS projects which have informed the global development of environmental regulations for CCS.

Dr. Jerald J. Fletcher is Professor of Energy, Resource and Environmental Economics and Director of the US-China Energy Center at West Virginia University. He is also the Founding Director of the US Advanced Coal Technology Consortium of the US-China Clean Energy Research Center (CERC) and founder and Director of the Natural Resource Analysis Center in the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design at West Virginia University. Professor Fletcher’s research interests focus on the application of economic analysis to energy, natural resource and environmental issues as well the application of quantitative methods including GIS and other computer software in applied economic analysis. He has served as a consultant to numerous agencies and organizations including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the World Bank. Prior to joining the WVU faculty in 1989, he was assistant professor at Purdue University. He received his PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California, Davis

Ben Gilmer is the project manager for Downstream Strategies, a Morgantown-based environmental consulting firm. He has ten years of experience working on environmental management, conservation, and geospatial projects in the US and internationally. He has a background in environmental modeling, climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, land-use planning, and agriculture. He uses geospatial technologies to analyze complex socioeconomic and environmental information and build the capacity of government agencies, NGOs, scientists, and local communities. Mr. Gilmer has completed projects in the Caribbean, Asia Pacific, Latin America, and the US.

Sam Petsonk is the Miner Safety and Health Project Attorney at Mountain State Justice. He joined Mountain State Justice in 2013 to launch the Miner Safety and Health Project. Prior to that, he spent several years working as a legislative staffer on energy policy and coal miners’ health and safety for U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd in Washington, DC. After leaving Senator Byrd’s office, he worked for U.S. Senator Carte Goodwin and then returned to school, earning a law degree at Washington & Lee University where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Energy, Climate, and the Environment. During and after law school, Sam held numerous internships and fellowships relating to mine safety and consumer protection. He received an undergraduate degree in geography from Brandeis University, and he has worked on various community economic development projects in southern West Virginia.

Climate Change, China, and the West Virginia Connection

Thursday, February 12, 2015
West Virginia University College of Law

Welcome

James Van Nostrand

Director, Center for Energy and Sustainable Development
Associate Professor of Law

Introduction

Brian Bellew

Outreach Coordinator, Allegheny Highlands Climate Change Impacts Initiative

Panel Discussion

Moderator

Ben Gilmer

Project Manager, Downstream Strategies

Panelists

Sara M. Forbes

Senior Associate, World Resources Institute

Dr. Jerald J. Fletcher

Director, US-China Energy Center at West Virginia University

Commenter

Sam Petsonk

Project Attorney, Mountain State Justice

Questions & Answers

Please turn off your cellphone.

A reception follows in the College of Law Lobby.