

Summary of event:

August 22, Wednesday 12-1

Title: Human dimensions of a New Carbon Economy: Brainstorming a webinar/workshop

Overall 24 scholars across campus came together for a topical lunch on the human/societal dimensions of New Carbon Economy. We presented the idea of the webinar and workshop, and then brainstormed about ideas. These ideas resulted in a few great ideas on how to move forward on engaging across disciplines, as well as some edits to our existing webinar (for example, switching the title from human to human/societal dimensions, since that appealed to more scholars across disciplines).

Attached is the list of attendees.

Below is the advertising abstract:

Organizers: Natalie Mahowald, Catherine Kling, Kieran Donaghy

Abstract:

The Atkinson Center is partnering with the Center for Carbon Removal (CCR) develop develop a research road map for the human dimensions' side of switching a carbon emitting economy to a carbon sequestering economy. Our goal is to hold a webinar in mid-September advertising this effort, and then a workshop in DC or NYC with a wide variety of scholars across the US to help frame the research agenda. We need your ideas and help to make this happen!

We hope you can help:

1. Frame the gaps and questions that are important to communicate to appropriate colleagues at other universities, NGOs and/or partner groups
2. Help develop the list of invitees to the webinar and workshop to identify important colleagues that should be involved in such a cross-disciplinary undertaking.
3. Help lead the US in research in this important and exciting new area of research!

More details:

Last semester, the Atkinson Center, held a workshop on converting our economy from a carbon dioxide emitting economy to a carbon dioxide sequestering economy with the Center for Carbon Removal (CCR), and the New Carbon Economy Consortium (NCEC) in order to develop a research Road Map for development, research and implementation of carbon dioxide removal technologies such as soil carbon sequestration, reforestation, carbon capture, utilization and sequestration, etc. that is being undertaken at the national level. At that workshop, it was noted that there was a significant gap in the research Road Map in the human dimensions, and CCR asked Atkinson to lead a follow-up effort to host a nation-wide workshop identifying the major gaps and laying forward a plan, focusing on transitioning to a New Carbon Economy. Here we invite Cornell faculty in the important areas on the human dimensions side to brainstorm the important gaps and research questions to help formulate the nation-wide webinar and workshop to be held later this year.

Developing an understanding of what is needed to bring about a transition from an economy that is carbon-emitting to one that is carbon-sequestering will entail that we draw upon the expertise of not only the natural sciences and engineering, but also many social science and humanist disciplines, including economics, law, science and technology studies, humanities, history, finance, political science, business, psychology, communication, sociology, planning, architecture, and design. A transition to a new carbon economy (NCE) will, moreover, entail the adoption of alternative technologies, policies and behaviors, and a substantial increase in the use of carbon dioxide removal (CDR), whose techniques range from land management, reforestation, and geological sequestration to utilization of carbon dioxide in products.

