



DAVID R. ATKINSON CENTER
for a Sustainable Future
Cornell University



Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future Topical Lunch

Title: *Challenges of the Clean Energy Transition: Technologies, Economics, Politics*

Hosts: **Dr. C. Lindsay Anderson**, Kathy Dwyer Marble and Curt Marble Faculty Director for Energy, Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, Assoc. Prof, Biological and Environmental Engineering

Dr. Allison Chatrchyan, Director, Cornell Institute for Climate Smart Solutions, Sr. Research Associate, Depts. Development Sociology and Earth & Atmospheric Sciences

Date: Friday October 5, 2018 12:00 – 1:00pm 300 Rice Hall

Featured Speaker: **Dr. Karl Hausker**, Senior Fellow, World Resources Institute and Kleinman Center for Energy Policy University of Pennsylvania, Cornell Class of 1979

In the decades ahead, the U.S. and the world as a whole must transition to clean, zero- and low-carbon energy sources to avoid dangerous and disruptive climate change. To face this challenge, many companies, cities, and even states are aiming to achieve 100% renewable energy goals. At the national level, Congress has seen introduction of “100% renewable” legislation, e.g. the 100 by ‘50 Act (S. 987). In contrast, the U.S. Mid-Century Strategy report (Nov. 2016) and similar studies argue for deployment of a broader range of zero- and low-carbon technologies to achieve deep reductions in CO₂ emissions. This briefing will explore how assumptions regarding the availability, performance, and integration of various technologies drive the expected implications and challenges associated with these contrasting pathways to the “deep decarbonization” of the U.S. economy. Implications for energy policy, R&D portfolios, and political coalition-building will also be explored.