



CO2 Emissions on the Rise: Leading Causes, Practical Solutions

Thursday, February 14

Panelists:



Sally Benson is the co-director of Stanford's Precourt Institute for Energy and director of the Global Climate and Energy Project (GCEP). She is a ground water hydrologist and reservoir engineer. She has conducted research to address a range of issues related to energy and the environment. Her research interests include geologic storage of CO₂ in deep underground formations, technologies and energy systems for a low-carbon future, influence of climate change on critical habitats, biogeochemistry of the element selenium, and tools for subsurface mapping and monitoring. She earned her Ph.D. in materials science and mineral engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to coming to Stanford in 2007, Benson was a staff scientist in the Earth Sciences Division at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and held many positions including deputy director of operations, division director for Earth sciences, and associate laboratory director for energy sciences.



Rob Jackson is the Michelle and Kevin Douglas Provostial Professor and senior fellow at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment and at the Precourt Institute for Energy. Jackson and his lab examine the many ways people affect the Earth. They seek basic scientific knowledge and use it to help shape policies and reduce the environmental footprint of global warming, energy extraction, and many other issues. They are currently examining the effects of climate change and droughts on forest mortality and grassland ecosystems. They are also working to measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the Global Carbon Project (globalcarbonproject.org), which Jackson chairs; examples of new research Rob is leading include establishing a global network of methane tower measurements at more than 50 sites worldwide and measuring and reducing methane emissions from oil and gas wells, city streets, and homes and buildings.



Sheila Bonini leads the private sector engagement team at the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), overseeing a team of sustainability professionals supporting the organization’s conservation mission. WWF works with more than 100 companies on issues ranging from sustainable sourcing to awareness-raising, all with the goal of harnessing the power of the private sector as a force for conservation.

Sheila joined WWF from The Sustainability Consortium (TSC), a global organization focused on making consumer products more sustainable, where she served as chief executive officer. In that capacity, she focused the organization on developing strategies and tools across the full product lifecycle that help to transform consumer goods supply chains. Prior to joining TSC, Sheila spent more than 15 years with the global consulting firm McKinsey & Company in the US, Europe and South America. Sheila served as senior expert consultant and co-leader of McKinsey’s Sustainability

Transformation Service, and her work focused on the link between social and environmental impact and financial value creation. Prior experience includes investment banking at Merrill Lynch and Goldman Sachs. Sheila received an AB degree in applied mathematics from Harvard University and an MBA from Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

Moderator:



Chris Field's research focuses on climate change, ranging from work on improving climate models, to prospects for renewable energy systems, to community organizations that can minimize the risk of a tragedy of the commons.

He has been deeply involved with national and international scale efforts to advance science and assessment related to global ecology and climate change. He served as co-chair of Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change from 2008-2015, where he led the effort on the IPCC Special Report on “Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation” (2012) and the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (2014) on Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability.

Field assumed leadership of the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment in September 2016. His other appointments at Stanford University include serving as the Melvin and Joan Lane Professor for Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies in the School of Humanities and Sciences; professor of Earth System Science in the School of Earth, Energy & Environmental Sciences; and senior fellow with the Precourt Institute for Energy. Prior to his appointment as Woods' Perry L. McCarty Director, Field served as director of the Carnegie Institution for Science's Department of Global Ecology, which he founded in 2002. Field holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from Harvard College and earned his Ph.D. in biology from Stanford.