

Can We Meet the Planet's Deadline?

Battling Climate Change on the Road to Copenhagen

Frances Beinecke

Abstract

Current science tells us that we must act now in order to prevent the worst impacts of global warming. The international community, meanwhile, is meeting this December in Copenhagen to negotiate a new climate regime. Is the United States moving fast enough to meet these deadlines? Will we pass a clean energy and climate law in time to emerge as a leader at the international talks?

Frances Beinecke will answer these questions, and discuss the political out-look for passing a climate law this fall. She will also talk about the role MIT students can play in developing clean energy technologies, including super-efficient electronics, hybrid batteries, and carbon capture for coal plants.

In the end, reaching climate goals will require not just technical know-how, but civic engagement as well, and Beinecke will talk about how MIT students can get involved.



Wednesday
October 7, 2009

Lecture: 4:15 PM
Reception to follow

Building 34 Room 101
50 Vassar Street
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Frances Beinecke, President
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Frances Beinecke is the president of the NRDC, one of the United States' most influential environmental action groups. The NRDC uses law, science, and the support of 1.2 million members and online activists to advance comprehensive solutions to today's biggest environmental challenges.

Under Ms. Beinecke's leadership, the organization has launched a new strategic campaign that sharply focuses NRDC's efforts on curbing global warming, moving America beyond oil, reviving the world's oceans, saving endangered wild places, stemming the tide of toxic chemicals, and accelerating the greening of China. Ms. Beinecke has worked with NRDC for more than 30 years.

In addition to her work at NRDC, Ms. Beinecke has played a leadership role in several other environmental organizations. She currently serves on the boards of the World Resources Institute, the Energy Future Coalition, and Conservation International's Center for Environmental Leadership in Business. She has been a member of the boards of the Wilderness Society, the China-U.S. Center for Sustainable Development, and the New York League of Conservation Voters.