

# Toward an Innovation-Centered Climate Change Strategy

Daniel Esty

**Wednesday, March 31st**

**Seminar at 3:00 PM**

**Light refreshments follow**

**Room E19-319**

**400 Main Street**



## Abstract

Prospects for a global agreement on climate change to supplant the Kyoto Protocol are now badly bogged down. The success of the international negotiations is deeply intertwined with the U.S. domestic political conversation around climate change. Unfortunately, the current legislative efforts seem unlikely to win the necessary majorities in the House and Senate. It is now time to think about alternative strategies. In this talk, I will argue that we need to put innovation at the center of our approach to climate change. Critical to this strategy realignment is a focus on getting a clear price signal on greenhouse gas emissions and a package of additional incentives that help to engage the full creative spirit of the country and the world in the effort to advance energy efficiency, explore alternative sources of power generation, and establish whether carbon capture and storage can be done cost effectively. This talk will examine the policy process that will be necessary to put forward such an innovation-centered approach to climate change.

## About the Speaker

**Daniel C. Esty** is the Hillhouse Professor of Environmental Law and Policy at Yale University. He holds faculty appointments in both Yale's Environment and Law Schools. He also serves as the Director of the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the Center for Business & Environment at Yale. Professor Esty is the author or editor of nine books and numerous articles on environmental policy issues and the relationships between environment and corporate strategy, competitiveness, trade, globalization, governance, and development. His recent prizewinning book, *Green to Gold: How Smart Companies Use Environmental Strategy to Innovate, Create Value, and Build Competitive Advantage*, argues that pollution control and natural resource management have become critical elements of marketplace success and explains how leading-edge companies have folded environmental thinking into their core business strategies. Prior to taking up his current position at Yale, Professor Esty was a Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics (1993-94), served in a variety of senior positions on the US Environmental Protection Agency (1989-93), and practiced law in Washington, DC (1986-89). In 2002, Professor Esty received the American Bar Association Award for Distinguished Achievement in Environmental Law and Policy for "pioneering a data-driven approach to environmental decision making" and developing the global Environmental Sustainability. He sits on the Board of Directors of Resources for the Future and the Connecticut Fund for the Environment.