
University of Pennsylvania



Institute for Environmental Studies

presents

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The Ethical Dimensions of Global Warming

Although a vast body of scientific and economic literature on global warming has emerged within the past fifteen years, very little has addressed the ethical issues that would accompany climate change. Which plants and animals should be protected? Which regions and economic activities should climate policy benefit? What sacrifices and by whom will be necessary to minimize human impact? A reasonable and just answer to these questions is critical if an equitable policy is to emerge. If we are to build a consensus, we must examine the equity and justice issues that would result from the policies we propose.

This presentation will begin by identifying the major issues currently in contention among those negotiating international climate policies. It will then identify the often hidden ethical implications that would result from those policies. Among the questions Don Brown will address are: (a) what targets should be set for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; (b) how should the necessary reductions in GHG emissions be equitably distributed, and; (c) how should we evaluate the ethical issues arising from arguments based upon scientific uncertainty and potential economic impacts? Finally, Brown will draw conclusions, using an ethical lens, to recommend both policies and processes we should follow as we continue to plan for the important years ahead.

Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Time: NOON - 1:30 pm

Place: Carolyn Hoff Lynch Auditorium

On the Penn campus: Chemistry Building

34th & Spruce Street (entrance on 34th Street)

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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