

ENVS Colloquium

Dr. Karl Hausker, Senior Fellow at the World Resources Institute

Zero-Carbon Electricity: The Key to the Clean Energy Transition



Monday, March 17, 2025
3 – 4 pm
Marley Building, Room 230



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Environmental
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To avoid worsening impacts of climate change, the United States and the world must dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next 30 years, and carbon dioxide emissions reach zero (or 'net zero') by mid-century. This will require the electricity sector to play a pivotal role in the transformation of how we produce and consume energy. We need to switch completely to zero- and very low-carbon means of producing electricity. At the same time, we must switch from fossil fuel combustion to use of electricity in a variety of applications in buildings, transportation, and industry – which could double or triple electricity demand in the coming decades (not to mention surging demand from data centers and AI). This seminar will explore the twin challenges of meeting this massive growth in demand while decarbonizing the sector responsible for roughly 38% of global CO₂ emissions (15 Gigatons).