

Paul Belanger

Subject: FW: Update on Nov. 19th EEE Forum: Are Paris Climate Talks Likely to Fail?
Attachments: 2015.09.30 EEE Forum October 19 agenda.docx

From: David Carlson [mailto:davidcarlson824@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2015 7:52 PM
Subject: Update on Nov. 19th EEE Forum: Are Paris Climate Talks Likely to Fail?

Dear friends of the Ethics and Ecological Economics Forum,

First, this is a reminder that we are NOT meeting on ~~Monday, October 12th~~ as originally announced several weeks ago. Due to a room shortage at the Iliff School of Theology on that date, we are meeting a week later on **Monday, October 19th**. We'll meet at Iliff in Bartlett Hall at our usual time, 2:00-4:15pm.

Our timely topic for October remains unchanged, however: **Are Paris Climate Talks Likely To Fail? Is There a Way Forward?** There is widespread agreement that the Kyoto Protocol of 1997 and the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in 2009 have failed to bring about a durable and effective international agreement among nations to curb carbon emissions. Our guiding question: *Will the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris this December have a different outcome?*

Our EEE Forum on the 19th will consider some reasons for previous failures and discuss the likelihood of success in Paris. We will then examine the "**climate club**" concept developed by economist **William Nordhaus** as a possible way forward. The path forward via the climate club route won't be smooth, however, since trade "carrots and sticks" will play a key role in establishing and maintaining a climate club of cooperating countries. The plot thickens.

Ecological economist and DU Professor **Dale Rothman and I** will co-lead the session.

Before we delve into Professor Nordhaus' thinking on the 19th about the likelihood of success in Paris, those attending will be invited to share their thoughts on the following:

(i) one (or possibly more) reasons why you think previous attempts to secure effective international agreements to reduce carbon emissions have failed;

and (ii) optimistic or pessimistic views about the outcome of the Paris Conference.

In addition to drawing upon your own knowledge and experience, you might search the Internet for brief opinion pieces. Some examples: I searched on "Paris climate conference commentary" and found "Can the Paris Climate Talks Prevent a Planetary Strike Out? (probably not; Boston University author) and "Is the Paris Climate Conference Already a Success? (well, yes; Columbia University author).

And finally, to get a jump on grasping Nordhaus' climate club idea before the 19th, I suggest that you read his nontechnical and lucid explanation in "Climate Clubs to Overcome Free-Riding." This article is published in *Issues in Science and Technology* (Summer 2015) and is available online at

<http://issues.org/31-4/climate-clubs-to-overcome-free-riding/>.

As always, RSVPs are appreciated but not required. Also, if you have comments to make or questions to ask but cannot attend, please send me an email message. Feel free to forward this message to others who may be interested. And if you no longer wish to receive these notices, let me know.

I have attached the previous agenda, which contains additional background information.

Best regards,

David Carlson, EEE Forum Convener

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