

## How Can We Accelerate Decarbonization to Mitigate Climate Change?

### Panelist Bios

**Julia Haggerty** is an Associate Professor of geography in the Department of Earth Sciences at Montana State University (MSU), where she holds a joint appointment in the Montana Institute on Ecosystems. Dr. Haggerty received her B.A. in liberal arts from Colorado College and her Ph.D. in history from the University of Colorado. An award-winning teacher, Dr. Haggerty teaches courses in human, economic, and energy resource geography at MSU. She also leads the Resources and Communities Research Group in studying the ways rural and tribal communities respond to shifting economic and policy trajectories, especially as they involve natural resources. Dr. Haggerty has expertise in diverse geographies, including those shaped by energy development, extractive industries, ranching and agriculture, and amenity development and conservation. Partnerships and collaboration with diverse stakeholders are central to her approach. Prior to joining MSU, Dr. Haggerty was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Otago in New Zealand (2005–2007) and a policy analyst with Headwaters Economics in Bozeman, Montana (2008–2013). She speaks frequently to public audiences about her research and has served on a number of boards and advisory committees from local to international scales.

**Nate Hultman** is the Founder and Director of the Center for Global Sustainability at the University of Maryland, and Professor in the School of Public Policy. Prof. Hultman's work focuses on developing and assessing policy strategies to target and achieve ambitious national climate goals. This includes U.S. emissions mitigation policy, rapid coal phaseout strategies in diverse national contexts, and economy-wide emissions strategies in key countries, with a focus on China and others. He was recently Senior Advisor in the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate at the U.S. Department of State, where he led the writing of the 2021 U.S. Long Term Strategy report and helped negotiate the U.S.-China Joint Glasgow Declaration at COP26. He was also lead author of several recent assessments of U.S. national climate strategies and emissions targets in advance of the announcement of the U.S. 2030 climate target (NDC). From 2014-2016, Hultman worked at the White House on the Obama Administration's climate and energy policy team. During this time, he helped develop the U.S. 2025 NDC, supported bilateral engagements with China and others, and participated in the international climate negotiations in Paris. He has participated in the UN climate process for 25 years, starting with the Kyoto meeting. Hultman is also a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, and associate director of the Joint Global Change Research Institute, a collaboration between the University of Maryland and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. He holds an M.S. and Ph.D. in Energy &

Resources from the University of California, Berkeley, and a B.A. in Physics from Carleton College.

**Diana Liverman** is a geographer and Regents Professor at the University of Arizona. Her research focuses on environmental change and policy, especially on the causes, consequences, and responses to climate change and the links between environment, sustainable development, and food security. She has longstanding interests in climate vulnerability and adaptation; climate information provision and climate policy; international environmental policy; carbon offsets; political ecology; and the interaction of global environmental change with food security. She has served on a number of NAS/NRC committees concerned with the human dimensions of global change.

**Michael Méndez** is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Planning and Policy at the University of California, Irvine. He most recently served as the inaugural James and Mary Pinchot Faculty Fellow in Sustainability Studies and Associate Research Scientist at the Yale School of the Environment. Michael has more than a decade of senior-level experience in the public and private sectors, where he consulted and actively engaged in the policymaking process. This included working for the California State Legislature as a senior consultant, lobbyist, a member of the California State Mining & Geology Board, and as vice chair of the Sacramento City Planning Commission. In 2021, California Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Dr. Méndez to the [Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board](#). The board regulates water quality in a region of 11 million people.

Dr. Méndez's research on climate-induced disasters and social vulnerability has been awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) Early Faculty Career grant, in conjunction with the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR).

**Devashree Saha** is a Senior Associate in World Resources Institute (WRI). With more than 18 years of experience, Dr. Devashree's research focuses on analysis of the economics of climate action and work to support an equitable and just transition to a net zero economy. Her most recent research is exploring how to navigate a just transition in the oil and gas sector in middle-income developing countries and just transition issues in the auto sector as the transition to electric vehicles picks up. She also recently led WRI research on The Economic Benefits of the New Climate Economy in Rural America, which focused on green jobs in rural communities.

Prior to joining WRI, Dr. Devashree led the Council of State Government's (CSG) energy and environmental policy work where she was responsible for directing research and providing policy analysis and technical assistance to state legislators and executive branch officials. Before joining CSG, Dr. Devashree worked at the Brookings Institution where her research focused on a wide array of clean energy topics, including examining clean energy innovation trends at the U.S. sub-national level, identifying promising clean energy financing mechanisms, and estimating the employment size, nature and

spatial geography of the U.S. clean economy. Earlier in her career, she worked for the National Governors Association, providing governors and their staff with data and guidance on best practices affecting the energy sector. Over her career, she has authored several publications on clean energy that have informed state and city policymaking.

Dr. Devashree holds a Ph.D. in public policy from the University of Texas at Austin and a master's degree in political science from Purdue University.