Board on Environmental Change & Society

Behavioral Pathways to Decarbonization with Recent Climate Legislation

Public Webinar: May 18, 2023

The Board on Environmental Change and Society (BECS) of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) is hosting a public webinar with expert panels on the significance of individual actions in achieving climate mitigation targets. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) demonstrates the potential contribution that behavioral pathways, such as electric vehicle and heat pump purchases and weatherization, can make to reducing greenhouse gas emissions within a broader enabling environment. Yet, the role of individual action is debated, and insights from social and behavioral science will be critical for government agencies and other institutions to effectively implement the IRA provisions directed toward enabling individual actions. This public webinar will explore these insights. The webinar will first identify the key research, staffing, program design, and other implications of social and behavioral science for successful implementation of the current legislation. The webinar will then look to the future to identify other actions and institutional initiatives necessary to achieve an individual pathway or behavioral wedge of additional emissions reductions over the next decade to avoid dangerous climate change.

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023, 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM ET

3:00-3:05 pm **Welcome and Introduction**

Michael Vandenbergh, Professor of Law, Vanderbilt University Law School; BECS member

3:05-4:00 **Panel 1: The Role of Individual Actions in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and How Institutions Can Most Effectively Address Them**

Moderator: Kenneth Gillingham, Professor of Economics, Yale School of the Environment; BECS member

3:10-3:20 **Jonathan Gilligan**, Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Vanderbilt University

The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions Arising Provisions Targeting Individual Actions in the IRA

3:20-3:30 **Kim Wolske**, Research Associate Professor, Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago

Achieving the IRA's Potential: The Role of Social and Behavioral Science-based Program Design Elements

3:30-3:40 **Rachael Shwom**, Professor, Department of Human Ecology, Rutgers University

Achieving the IRA's Potential: Insights from Organizational Behavior

3:40-3:50 **Brandon Schauer**, Senior Vice President, Climate Culture, Rare

Achieving the IRA's Potential: The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations

3:50-4:00 Q&A

4:00-5:30 **Panel 2: New Opportunities for an Individual Pathway for Climate Action**

Moderator: Lisa Dilling, Professor, Department of Environmental Studies, University of Colorado-Boulder; BECS member

4:05-4:20 **Reuven Sussman**, Director, Behavior, Health and Human Dimensions Program, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

The Role of Non-governmental Organizations in Harnessing Individual Action to Reduce GHG Emissions

4:20-4:35 **Shahzeen Attari**, Associate Professor, Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University

Insights from Social and Behavioral Science about the Role of Individual Actions in U.S. Climate Change Mitigation

4:35-4:50 **Kristian Steensen Nielsen**, Assistant Professor, Copenhagen Business School

Insights from Social and Behavioral Science about the Role of Individual Actions in Global Climate Change Mitigation

4:50-5:15 **Charles Trevail**, Executive Chairman, Interbrand

The Roles of Consumers and Corporations in Climate Change Mitigation

5:15-5:30 **Q&A**

5:30 pm **Conclusion**