The National Academies of SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

Committee on Developing a Research Agenda and Research Governance Approaches for Climate Intervention Strategies that Reflect Sunlight to Cool Earth

Solar Climate Intervention Strategies Scenarios Webinar

December 16, 2019 Solar Climate Intervention Strategies Scenarios Webinar 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. EST

Overview

Solar climate intervention, often referred to as solar radiation management (SRM) or solar geoengineering, is a proposed climate response strategy that would employ technologies designed to reflect sunlight in order to cool the planet. If deployed, such technologies would not have the same effect as reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The Committee on Developing a Research Agenda and Research Governance Approaches for Climate Intervention Strategies that Reflect Sunlight to Cool Earth has been tasked with developing a research agenda and research governance approaches for solar climate intervention.

For this webinar, speakers are being asked to consider four climate intervention scenarios and identify the questions that they would want answered before they could make an informed decision about pursuing a research program for solar geoengineering (inclusive of outdoor experiments with possible transboundary impacts) or deploying solar geoengineering.

In particular, they have been asked to identify those high level considerations (e.g., efficacy, attribution or traceability, known risks, risks of inaction because of climate impacts, potential for – and extent of – unintended consequences, costs, technological readiness, technical capacity, political risk, etc.) that would most likely affect their decision making.

During this information gathering webinar, members of the committee will engage speakers in a discussion about decision making within the context of the four scenarios.