

Making Climate Assessments Work: Learning from California and Other Subnational Climate Assessments

Committee

Paul A. DeCotis

Chair

Paul DeCotis is Senior Director and East Coast Lead in the Energy and Utilities practice at West Monroe Partners. Formerly, he was Managing Director at Long Island Power Authority where he oversaw utility operations and services, and compliance management. Before that, Paul was Vice President of Power Markets where he oversaw integrated electric resource planning, including all fuels and sources; fuel, energy and capacity purchases and sales into wholesale markets; power project development and management; and FERC policy. Prior to this Paul was Energy Secretary in New York, serving as senior energy advisor to Governor Eliot Spitzer and Governor David Paterson. Paul was also Chair of the State Energy Planning Board and a member of the NYC Energy Planning Board. Paul previously served as Director of Energy Analysis for the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority where he oversaw corporate strategy and planning, forecasting and analysis, and energy efficiency, renewable energy, and R&D program evaluation. Prior to this, Paul was Chief of Policy at the State Energy Office. Until his appointment by Governor Spitzer, Paul was a management consultant specializing in executive and board development, strategy, and mediation. Since 1985, he has served as an adjunct faculty member at several colleges and universities including Cornell University, Rochester Institute of Technology, and Sage Graduate School. Paul is a past seven-year member of the Board on Energy and Environmental Systems of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C.; current editorial board member of the Springer Energy Efficiency Journal and Wiley's Natural Gas and Electricity Journal; and a member of Montclair Publishing LLC, "Who's Who in North America". Paul is most recent past board member of the U.S. Offshore Wind Collaborative; past board member of the Clean Energy States Alliance; past executive committee member of the New York State Reliability Council; and past representative from New York representing Governor Andrew Cuomo, to the Eastern States Interconnection Planning Council, among other boards and committees. Paul has served on and chaired many professional organizations and associations and has extensive community service experience. Paul has published dozens of articles and professional papers on energy and industry matters. Paul received his Bachelor of Arts in international business management from the State University College at Brockport, his Master of Arts in economics from the University at Albany, and his Master of Business Administration in finance from the Sage Graduate School at Russell Sage College.

Kit Batten

Member

Dr. Kit Batten is Climate Resilience Chief at Pacific Gas and Electric. She is a recognized expert in climate change policy with fifteen years of sustainability leadership. As part of the corporate sustainability team at PG&E, Dr. Kit Batten leads a company-wide initiative to increase the climate resilience of PG&E's operations and infrastructure, as well as the resilience of the communities PG&E serves. Prior to her role at PG&E, Dr. Batten served as executive director at the University of California, Davis Policy Institute for Energy, Environment, and the Economy, where she leveraged the university's expertise to inform California's energy, climate and transportation policies?bringing together scientific researchers and policy-makers. Dr. Batten also served as the Global Climate Change Coordinator at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), where she led the agency's efforts to implement climate-resilient, low-carbon sustainable development programs in more than 40 countries. Dr. Batten has also served as senior science and policy fellow and program director at the H. John Heinz III center for Science, Economics, and the Environment; as science advisor to the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior; and as senior fellow/managing director for energy and environmental policy at the Center for American Progress. She has also held positions in the offices of Senator Dianne Feinstein and Senator Joe Lieberman. Dr. Batten earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Oberlin College and master's and doctoral degrees in ecology from U.C. Davis.

W. Michael Hanemann

Member

Dr. W. Michael Hanemann (NAS) joined the Arizona State University Department of Economics and the Center for Environmental Economics and Sustainability Policy in 2011 where he is a Wrigley Chair in Sustainability. He came to ASU from the University of California, Berkeley, where he was a Chancellor's Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resources Economics and the Goldman School of Public Policy. His research interests include non-market valuation, the economics of water and of climate change, environmental policy, adaptive management, and demand modeling for market research. Dr. Hanemann has served on many NRC committees and was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2011. He was a lead author and a contributing lead author for Working Group III of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report on Climate Change. Dr. Hanemann received his B.A. degree from Oxford University in philosophy, politics, and economics, his M.S. from the London School of Economics in development economics, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University in Public Finance and Decision Theory and Economics. He received an honorary Ph.D from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and the Lifetime Award for Outstanding Achievement from the European Association of Environmental & Resource Economists. He is an inaugural Fellow of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists and a Fellow of the American Association of Agricultural Economics.

Jennifer Jurado

Member

Dr. Jennifer Jurado is the Chief Resilience Officer and Director of the Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division for Broward County in Florida. She is responsible for county-wide coordination of water resources policy, planning and management activities; advancement of the County's regional climate initiatives; administration of beach and marine resources programs; implementation of the County's urban lands enhancement program; and environmental monitoring activities. Significant initiatives have included development and implementation of Broward's county-wide integrated water resources and climate change action plans, the convening of regional water and climate change task forces, and coordination of multi-jurisdictional initiatives focused on water conservation, alternative water supply planning, environmental sustainability, and community resilience to the impacts of climate change. Program efforts include a strong focus on state and federal policy as well as comprehensive planning. Dr. Jurado's current program efforts for Broward County include integration of climate change and sea level rise in planning tools and processes; renewable energy initiatives; advancement of diverse regional water projects; and activities relating to the implementation of the four-county Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (Compact) and the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Action Plan. Dr. Jurado is an active and original member of the Compact's Staff Steering Committee where she has led the Built Environment Work Group and currently serves as co-chair of the Economic Resilience and Water Resources Work Groups. Dr. Jurado earned her Ph.D. in marine biology and fisheries from the University of Miami.

James Wall

Member

John Wall (NAE) is retired Vice President and Chief Technical Officer for Cummins Inc. In this role, he oversaw more than 6,000 engineers working to design internal combustion engines, power generation systems and related technologies in Cummins technical centers around the world. Dr. Wall's earlier positions at Cummins include Chief Engineer-Heavy-Duty Projects; Director-Emissions Research; Vice President-Research & Development; and Vice President-Advanced Engineering and Technology Planning. Prior to joining Cummins, Dr. Wall held research and engineering positions at Chevron Research Company, most recently serving as the Unit Leader of Diesel & Aviation Fuels Research. Dr. Wall's interests include advanced internal combustion engine design, emissions control and fuels, and engineering in a global environment. He serves on advisory boards at MIT and Purdue University. Dr. Wall currently chairs the National Academy of Engineering Bernard M. Gordon Prize committee and has previously served on other NAE committees. Dr. Wall earned his S.B., S.M. and Sc.D. degrees in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Cathy L. Whitlock

Member

Dr. Cathy Whitlock is a professor of Earth Sciences at Montana State University and a fellow of the Montana Institute on Ecosystems. Dr. Whitlock's research interests include Quaternary environmental change, paleoecology and paleoclimatology with a focus on vegetation, fire, and climate history. She is nationally and internationally recognized for her scholarly contributions and leadership activities in the field of past climatic and environmental change, and she has published over 190 reviewed journal articles and book chapters on this topic. Her current research sites extend from Yellowstone and the western U.S. to New Zealand, Tasmania, and Patagonia. Since her arrival at MSU in 2004, Dr. Whitlock has built a successful research and teaching program, and the MSU Paleoecology Lab supports post-docs, graduate students, and undergraduates and visiting scientists from around the world. Her research has been funded by grants from the National Science Foundation, Joint Fire Sciences Program, National Park Service, Department of Energy, USDA Forest Service, and U.S. Geological Survey. She is past president of the American Quaternary Association and has served on national and international advisory and review committees concerned with climate change. Dr. Whitlock is also the lead author of the 2017 Montana Climate Assessment. She earned her Ph.D. in geological sciences from the University of Washington in 1983 and her BA from Colorado College in 1975.

K. J. Holmes

Staff Officer