



Retreat Agenda

June 10, 2025

Princeton Marriott at Forrestal

Confronting Reality: Climate Goals and Decarbonization

Last year marked the hottest year on record as the world surpassed the 1.5 °C warming threshold identified in the 2015 Paris Agreement as a critical limit for avoiding the worst impacts of climate change. At the **twelfth annual Princeton E-affiliates Partnership Retreat**, experts will candidly discuss strategies for navigating decarbonization efforts in the face of serious techno-industrial, social, economic, and political headwinds; address the reality of living and working on a warming planet; explore the status of the clean energy transition; and identify potential technology and policy backstops to mitigate further climate disaster.

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| 8:30 a.m. | Registration and Breakfast Bainbridge Room |
| 9:00 a.m. | Welcome and Overview Carnahan Room

<i>Iain McCulloch, Director, Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment; Gerhard R. Andlinger Professor in Energy and the Environment; Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment, Princeton University</i> |
| 9:10 a.m. | Framing the Day

<i>Chris Greig, Associate Director for External Partnerships; Theodora D. '78 and William H. Walton III '74 Senior Research Scientist at the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment, Princeton University</i> |
| 9:15 a.m. | Fireside Chat
Climate Goals: Aiming for the Best, Planning for the Worst
As ambitious climate goals outlined in the Paris Agreement and mid-century net-zero plans look increasingly beyond reach, how should we be framing the challenge of decarbonization? Are such ambitious goals helpful or counterproductive to research, policy, and investment?

<i>Wei Peng, Moderator, Assistant Professor of Public and International Affairs and the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment, Princeton University</i>

<i>Armond Cohen, Executive Director, Clean Air Task Force</i>
<i>Navroz Dubash, Professor of Public and International Affairs and the High Meadows Environmental Institute, Princeton University</i> |
| 10:15 a.m. | Break (20 minutes) |

10:35 a.m.

Accelerating Clean Energy Infrastructure: Everything, Everywhere, All at Once

Panelists will highlight the unprecedented speed and scale of clean energy and transmission expansion required to achieve decarbonization goals. Experts will discuss the critical steps for ensuring the capital mobilization, social license, and workforce readiness to achieve such accelerated infrastructure delivery.

Laura Leonard, Moderator, *Group President, Technology Solutions, Worley*

Scott Hobart, *Partner and Chief Investment Officer, Mercator Partners*

Jesse Jenkins, *Associate Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment, Princeton University*

Kurt Waltzer, *Senior Advisor, Clean Air Task Force; Principal, Energy Systems Innovation Consultancy*

12:00 p.m.

Lunch | Bainbridge Room

1:30 p.m.

Adapting to Serious Climate Change

Starting with a focus on agriculture and food security and pivoting to economic development and investment strategies, panelists will consider the challenges of adapting to a 2.5 – 3.5 °C rise in average global surface temperatures. Experts will discuss how to integrate climate resilience into national planning, financial systems, infrastructure development, and regulatory frameworks.

Richard Moss, Moderator, *Non-resident Fellow, Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment, Princeton University*

Ekaterina (Katya) Gratcheva, *Advisor on Climate and Sustainable Finance, Monetary and Capital Markets Department, International Monetary Fund (IMF); Non-resident Fellow, Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment and the Julis-Rabinowitz Center for Public Policy and Finance, Princeton University*

Anna Law, *Strategic Partnerships Officer, Multilateral and Programme Country Partnerships Division, Partnerships and Innovation Department, United Nations World Food Programme*

Cynthia Rosenzweig, *Co-founder, AgMIP; Adjunct Senior Research Scientist, Center for Climate Systems Research, Columbia University*

Julie Rozenberg, *Senior Economist, Office of the World Bank Regional Director for Sustainable Development in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, World Bank*

2:45 p.m.

Break (20 minutes)

3:05 p.m.

Is There a Plan B?

Despite clean energy deployment and adaptation efforts, there are likely to be increasingly dangerous impacts of climate change in the future. Panelists will discuss the potential benefits and risks of proposed climate intervention

schemes (such as geoengineering) designed to reduce those impacts, as well as their policy implications.

Barbara Buckinx, Moderator, *Research Scholar, Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination (LISD), Princeton University*

Dale Jamieson, *Director, Center for Environmental and Animal Protection; Professor Emeritus of Environmental Studies, Professor of Philosophy, and Affiliated Professor of Law, Medical Ethics, and Bioethics, New York University*

Alan Robock, *Distinguished Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, Rutgers University*

Patrick Taylor Smith, *Associate Principal, Principia Advisory; Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University*

4:20 p.m.

Wrap-up Discussion and Next Steps

4:30 p.m.

Poster Session and Reception | Bainbridge Room