

# YALE SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP FORUM

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## SPEAKERS

The distinguished speakers teaching the Yale Sustainability Leadership Forum are thought leaders and innovators of sustainability in the 21st century.

Drawing from Yale's own renowned Law School, School of Management, and School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, as well as from leadership positions in government and industry, these individuals collectively offer an essential set of strategies and sustainability principles to guide our institutions, governments, and businesses, and societies.

## FORUM DIRECTOR



### **Daniel C. Esty**

Hillhouse Professor of Environmental Law and Policy, Director of Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy

### **Topics: Sustainability as a Megatrend and Climate Change as a Case Study**

A professor at Yale since 1994, he holds faculty appointments in both Yale's Environment and Law Schools with a secondary appointment at the Yale School of Management. He directs the Yale Center for Environmental Law

and Policy and serves on the Board of the Center for Business & Environment at Yale, which he founded in 2006. From 2011 to 2014, Professor Esty served as head (Commissioner) of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

### **Related Articles**

- *Yale becomes first university to join Global Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition*
- *Dan Esty on How to Remake Environmental Protection For the 21st Century*
- *Red Lights to Green Lights: from 20th century environmental regulations to 21st century sustainability*
- *Green Bank Established by Professor Daniel Esty '86 Receives Harvard Prize*

## **2018 SPEAKERS**



**Susan Biniiaz** [*tentative*]

Lecturer, Yale Law School; Senior Fellow, UN Foundation; formerly with the U.S. State Department, Legal Adviser's Office

**Topic: Global Climate Change Negotiations - An Insider's 25-year View**



### **Gary Brudvig**

Benjamin Silliman Professor and Chair of Chemistry; Professor of Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry; Director of the Yale Energy Sciences Institute, Yale University

**Topic: Science and Innovation**



### **James Cameron**

Executive Fellow, Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy; Long-time International Climate Change Negotiator

**Topic: A Global Perspective on Sustainability**



### **Marian Chertow**

Associate Professor of Industrial Environmental Management; Director of the Program on Solid Waste Policy; Director of the Industrial Environmental Management Program, Yale University

**Topic: Industrial Ecology - Closing the Loop**



### **E. Donald Elliott**

Professor (Adjunct) of Law, Yale Law School

**Topic: The Evolution of Environmental Law and Policy**



### **Bradford Gentry**

Associate Dean for Professional Practice;  
Professor in the Practice; Co-Director of the  
Center for Business & the Environment at Yale;

Director of the Research Program on Private Investment and the  
Environment, Yale University

**Topic: New Conservation Strategies**



### **Kenneth Gillingham**

Assistant Professor of Environmental & Energy  
Economics, Yale School of Forestry &  
Environmental Studies

**Topic: Recent Learning in Energy and  
Environmental Economics**



**Anthony Leiserowitz**

Senior Research Scientist and Director of the  
Yale Program on Climate Change  
Communication (YPCCC)

**Topic: Climate Change Communications**



**David Lubin**

Managing Director, S3

**Topic: Sustainable Investing**



**Julie Zimmerman**

Professor of Green Engineering, Yale University;  
Assistant Director for Research, Center for  
Green Chemistry and Green Engineering at Yale

**Topic: Green Design**

**Past Speakers >>**

## **2018 AGENDA AND TOPICS**

Tuesday, October 9

**3:00 pm - 4:15 pm – Optional Campus Tour**

**4:45 pm - 5:15 pm – Welcome Remarks; Sustainability as a Megatrend**

*Daniel C. Esty, Hillhouse Professor of Environmental Law and Policy, Director of Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy*

Sustainability has emerged as an overarching framework for life in the 21st century. In this opening module of the Leadership Forum, I will explore how sustainability brings together energy, environment, and economic issues — and for some, social elements as well — in an integrated and systematic approach to ecological challenges at various scales from global to local. I will further discuss how sustainability has helped to shift policy practices toward long-term outcomes, incentives for changed behavior, engagement of the private sector as a source of innovation, and market-based regulatory strategies rather than “command and control” mandates. Other mega-trends that are shaping our environmental trajectory including the IT revolution, transparency, Big Data and metrics, and changing attitudes toward government will also be discussed.

**5:15 pm - 6:15 pm – *Session to be determined***

**6:30 pm – Cocktail Reception**

**7:00 pm - 8:30 pm – Dinner and Participant Introductions**

Wednesday, October 10

*[tentative]* **8:30 am - 10:00 am – Global Climate Change Negotiations:  
An Insider’s 25-year View**

*Susan Biniaz, Lecturer, Yale Law School; Senior Fellow, UN Foundation;  
formerly with the U.S. State Department, Legal Adviser’s Office*

Sue Biniaz will trace the evolution of the international climate change regime through the adoption of the Paris Agreement, stressing notable developments and interesting ways in which differences among countries were resolved. She will also discuss the U.S. Administration’s decision to withdraw from Paris, including its implications and possible ways forward.

**10:00 am - 10:30 am – Break**

**10:30 am - 12:00 pm – Sustainable Investing**

*David Lubin, Managing Director, S3*

This seminar will provide participants with an overview of the sustainable investing evolution from its roots as a ‘values’ strategy to today’s multifaceted marketplace with a new emphasis on ‘value’. The presentation and discussion will focus on the following:

- How the sustainable investing market is segmented
- How demographics shifts are expected to impact capital flows toward ‘sustainable strategies’

- Emerging data linking sustainable strategies with financial results
- Key data challenges limiting mainstream adoption of sustainable investing strategies
- Potential new directions for market development

**12:00 pm - 1:30 pm – Lunch / Breakout Group Meeting #1**

**1:30 pm - 3:00 pm – Recent Learning in Energy and Environmental Economics**

*Kenneth Gillingham, Assistant Professor of Environmental & Energy Economics, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies*

Carbon pricing is an active area of both research and policy activity around the world. What is carbon pricing? What policies implement it? What is the latest research on how to set a carbon price? This talk delves into each of these questions, incorporating the latest evidence and perspective on policy.

**3:00 pm - 3:30 pm – Break**

**3:30 pm - 5:00 pm – Climate Change Communications**

*Anthony Leiserowitz, Senior Research Scientist; Director, Yale Program on Climate Change Communication (YPPCCC)*

Climate change is one of the most daunting challenges of our time. Americans and other people around the world have diverse and sometime opposing views about global warming, fundamentally shaping political and economic responses to climate change. In this module, we will review recent global and national trends in public climate change knowledge, attitudes, policy support, and behavior and discuss strategies to build public and political will for climate action.

**Optional Dinner Groups / Free Evening**



Thursday, October 11

**8:30 am - 10:00 am – Science and Innovation**

*Gary Brudvig, Benjamin Silliman Professor and Chair of Chemistry, Professor of Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry, Director of the Yale Energy Sciences Institute, Yale University*

Currently, most of the energy we use comes from ‘fossil’ fuels, but there are significant environmental impacts. Renewable and carbon-neutral sources of energy are needed. Sunlight and wind are abundant and renewable energy sources; the sunlight striking the surface of the Earth and estimates of global wind capacity both greatly exceed current global power demand. However, new technology is needed to convert light and wind energy into a storable form in order to use these intermittent energy sources on a large scale.

Research and innovation are critical to develop the technology needed to transition from a fossil fuel-based energy economy to carbon-neutral and sustainable sources of energy. Solar energy conversion and storage are goals of the recently established Yale Energy Sciences Institute (YESI) on Yale’s West Campus. Interdisciplinary work is essential to spur innovation and technological breakthroughs in the energy sciences. At the YESI, faculty from Chemistry, Applied Physics, Mechanical Engineering & Material Science and Chemical & Environmental Engineering are working side by side. New facilities have been created with an open environment to maximize interactions among researchers in different disciplines, and a new Materials Characterization Core has been established with state-of-the-art instrumentation to enable cutting-edge research. Progress made to date at the YESI will be discussed. The new start-up company “Catalytic

Innovations”, which was founded by members of the YESI, will be highlighted as an example of the transition from laboratory research to new technology.

**10:00 am - 10:30 am – Break**

**10:30 am - 12:00 pm – Green Design**

*Julie Zimmerman, Professor of Green Engineering, Yale University; Assistant Director for Research, Center for Green Chemistry and Green Engineering at Yale*

A wicked problem is one that is intractable due to incomplete or contradictory knowledge, the number of people and opinions involved, the large economic burden, and the interconnected nature of these variables. Wicked problems require systems thinking coupled with more conventional reductionist approaches to identify highly effective leverage points for interventions and to avoid unintended consequences. However, these synergistic interventions that can advance sustainability often contradict myths of the “status quo”. This talk will explore these myths and the innovations that are disproving them towards realizing a sustainable future.

**12:00 pm - 12:50 pm – Lunch**

**12:50 pm - 1:00 pm – Group Photo**

**1:00 pm - 2:30 pm – Industrial Ecology: Closing the Loop**

*Marian Chertow, Associate Professor of Industrial Environmental Management, Director of the Program on Solid Waste Policy, and Director of the Industrial Environmental Management Program, Yale University*

Industrial ecology has emerged since the 1990s as a multi-disciplinary field at the nexus of environmental science, engineering, business, and policy. With

an intensive focus on the physical flow of materials and energy through systems at different scales, it also examines the influences of economic, political, regulatory, and social factors on the flow, use, and transformation of resources. This session highlights the great potential in cycling resources and closing loops at international and national levels, and also at the firm and industrial cluster levels, by exploring topics such as “lifecycle assessment,” “industrial symbiosis” and the “circular economy.”

**2:30 pm - 2:45 pm – Break**

**2:45 pm - 4:00 pm – Breakout Groups Meeting #2**

**4:00 pm - 5:30 pm – Groups Report Back / Discussion**

**5:45 pm - 6:30 pm – Cocktail Reception**

**6:30 pm - 8:00 pm – Dinner and Keynote Address: A Global Perspective on Sustainability**

*James Cameron, Executive Fellow, Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy; Long-time International Climate Change Negotiator*

Friday, October 12

**8:30 am - 10:00 am – The Evolution of Environmental Law and Policy**

*E. Donald Elliott, Professor (Adjunct) of Law, Yale Law School*

In his lecture “The Evolution of U.S. Environmental Law,” Yale Law School professor E. Donald Elliott will trace developments in U.S. environmental law from the 1960’s to the present. He begins with the emergence of “environmental law” out of common law nuisance in the 1970’s, and traces its

development through the stages of comprehensive analysis and legalistic bureaucracy in the 1980's and 1990's. He ends with the present and the increasing focus on sustainability and pollution prevention as opposed to regulation. Professor Elliott draws ten lessons from the U.S. experience, based on his 2010 lecture in Taiwan, *U.S. Environmental Law in Global Perspective: Five Do's and Five Don'ts from Our Experience*, 2010 National Taiwan University Law Review

144: [http://digitalcommons.law.yale.edu/fss\\_papers/2717](http://digitalcommons.law.yale.edu/fss_papers/2717).

**10:00 am - 10:30 am – Break**

**10:30 am - 12:00 pm – New Conservation Strategies**

*Bradford Gentry, Associate Dean for Professional Practice; Professor in the Practice; Co-Director of the Center for Business & the Environment at Yale; Director of the Research Program on Private Investment and the Environment, Yale University*

Land conservation is often traditionally viewed as an effort to: (i) keep people out of natural areas; (ii) by preventing their development or other human use; (iii) to protect the interests of non-human species; (iv) using charitable and public money. While much important work has been done in this way, this approach is limited in the scale of the natural areas it can affect. As views about human interests in the goods and services that natural areas provide have broadened, so too have the types of organizations and sources of finance for both protecting and restoring natural areas. The purpose of this session is to explore some of these new directions in land conservation.

**12:00 pm - 12:45 pm – Lunch**

**12:45 pm - 2:00 pm – Climate Change as a Case Study**

*Daniel C. Esty, Hillhouse Professor of Environmental Law and Policy, Director of Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy*

Climate change is perhaps the most critical issue within the emerging 21st century sustainability framework. Since the Earth Summit of 1992, which produced the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the world has approached the climate change challenge with a top-down (nation state-led) emphasis on targets and timetables for emissions reductions. Little progress was made, however, as it turns out that Presidents and Prime Ministers have little day to day control over the carbon footprints of their societies. Last December in Paris, 195 countries came together and conclude a new climate change agreement that broadens engagement to include mayors, governors/premiers, corporate executives, and community leaders — recognizing that “bottom up” efforts at the city, state/provincial, and corporate scales often produce better results. Professor Dan Esty will describe how the new 2015 Paris Agreement exemplifies sustainability as an integrative management concept for the 21st century.

**2:00 pm - 2:30 pm – Certificate Ceremony**

**2:30 pm – Program Concludes**

**3:30 pm - 5:00 pm – Optional Campus Tour**

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**YALE SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP FORUM | OCTOBER 9-12, 2018**

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