



We are pleased to announce that the Climate Policy Journal (CPJ) saw a rise in its impact factor for 2016 to 2.735, up from 1.98 in 2015.

A number of recently-published papers, particularly relevant to COP 23, are available for free in the Editor's Choice section for the duration of the Bonn Climate Conference (follow links from the homepage). Topics include the impact of the US withdrawal from Paris, transparency, adaptation, assessing NDC ambition, and Laurence Tubiana's paper on the role of science in the post-Paris negotiations.

A forthcoming "special issue on policy options for limiting warming to 1.5 degrees" will focus on papers on financing for 1.5, governance of solar radiation management, the coal sector transition, and key short-term policy steps accepted for publication.

CPJ publishers Taylor and Francis have announced that the issues published per year will rise to 10 in 2018.

More information on the CPJ can be found on the Climate Strategies website.

WEBPAGE:
climatestrategies.org/climate-policy-journal

Climate Strategies' Executive Committee (Board): Charlotte Streck (Chair), Tim Lancaster (Vice Chair), Heleen de Coninck, Navraj Singh Ghaleigh, Axel Michaelowa, Karsten Neuhoff, and Maurits Blanson Henkemans.

Climate Strategies Secretariat: Andrzej Blachowicz (Managing Director), Alexandra Carr (Programme and Communication Manager), Diana Quezada (Programme and Communication Manager), Henry Derwent (Senior Advisor).

Six new blog posts have been published on the Climate Strategies/CPJ blog page:

- Liability for Loss and Damage from Climate Change (June 2017)
- Non-State Actors are Here to Stay, but Delivery Mechanisms Need Improvement (July 2017)
- Living in a Material World: A Win-Win for Improving Energy Efficiency? (July 2017)
- Fairness in the Eyes of Parties to the Paris Agreement. What Explains Divergences? (August 2017)
- What if Negative Emissions Fail at Scale? (August 2017)
- Realising Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform through Trade Agreements (October 2017)

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The Importance of Connecting Climate Research to Policy

Charlotte Streck

It is the time of the year during which we pack our suitcases and travel to meet thousands of other stakeholders that gather at the occasion of the annual climate conference.

It is also a time at which we ask ourselves whether such meetings bring closer to the transformational change needed to achieve the Paris Agreement goals – or not. For me, this is the time of the year at which I question the need, purpose and justification for my trip to the COP.

There is no doubt about the value of multilateral negotiations for defining the procedures to guide the Paris Agreement. This certainly justifies the trip of country negotiators, although it may be useful to remind them that accounting alone is not solving the climate. The end goal of the negotiations is to create a framework for action and this is where the interface between policy makers and negotiators becomes important.

The COP is also an opportunity for progressive policy makers to present their achievements, announce action, and point towards progress. This deserves encouragement, particularly at a time when many leading, developed countries find themselves in post-rational phases of policy cycles. NGOs also need the COP to lobby negotiators at meetings, raise general awareness, and meet funders for financial stability.

The COP is a natural ecosystem for these stakeholders. However, it would be more useful if they would start populating this behaviour in local, regional and national

policy circles, where important decision on our energy and land future are taken. Here waits less spotlight, but often more impact.

For researchers, those that lay the foundation of facts that *should* inform negotiations and policy-making, their presence reminds decision makers of the need and urgency to act. They present essential facts and scientific arguments, where others just offer excuses and opinions. However, they generally prefer labs, offices, solitude or the company of peers with whom they communicate through papers and journals. They are not made for performance in the annual climate circus.

This is why Climate Strategies is so important. They manage a unique network of researchers and link climate research with policy making. Speaking the language of academia as fluently as the language of policy, Climate Strategies presents findings of its members and partners in a digestible format, paired with concrete recommendations for action.

This is why I am proud to be the Chair of the Climate Strategies Board, helping to make these connections. This is also why I will travel to Bonn, hoping to contribute my part in this important mission and I look forward to seeing as many of you there for a constructive exchange of views.



Dr Charlotte Streck is Co-founder and Director at Climate Focus; and is Chair of the Board of Climate Strategies.



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HIGHLIGHTS ON PROJECTS

Follow @climatestrat for updates on events and reports

Coal Transitions: Research and Dialogue on the Future of Coal

This project, jointly led by Climate Strategies and IDDRI, over the last year has been linking and reinforcing policy, research and advocacy efforts on coal transition in different countries.



We published our report "Lessons from Previous Coal Transitions" in June 2017. The report summarises key lessons from previous coal transitions in selected case study countries, namely the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, UK and the US. It also provides key recommendations to coal producing regions. An op-ed, reflecting the key findings from the report, was published in Climate Home.

The second stakeholder meeting was held in London in June 2017. The event discussed the findings of the historical reports and presented the national case studies being undertaken by the research teams in Poland, Germany, South Africa, India, China and Australia.

We discussed the regional transition with stakeholders in Katowice, capital of coal-dependant Silesia region in Poland, in October 2017. A summary note from the meeting is available on the project website.

We published a summary paper for the project in November 2017. This paper aims to highlight the relevance of the project to the global discussion on raising ambition under the Paris Agreement. It also brings together the different pieces of work of the project, explaining how they fit together as part of a coherent package.

UPCOMING EVENTS: We are holding an official UNFCCC side event 'Implementing Coal Transitions to Raise Climate Ambition' on November 15th 2017, at the Bonn Zone Room 9, at COP23.

A stakeholder dialogue in India will be organised by Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, in Jharkhand on December 1st and 2nd 2017, supported by Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research.

For more information about these events, please email info@climatestrategies.org.

PUBLICATIONS: The synthesis report, summary paper and all country case studies are available to download from the project website.

Over the coming months, the project will also publish two case studies, the first on the risk of stranded assets risks in China's coal-fired power fleet, and on innovation policy for regional economic transition.

WEBPAGE: www.coaltransitions.org

TWITTER: [@coaltransitions](https://twitter.com/coaltransitions)

Making the international trade system work for climate change

This project focuses on mapping climate-trade interactions; assessing how border carbon adjustments can be designed for climate protection; analysing the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies through trade agreements; and evaluating how to make the international trading system work for climate change.

We held our second project workshop in Geneva in May 2017, with SEI and IISD. The workshop addressed options for reforming fossil fuel subsidies through the WTO and international trade agreements. A workshop report is available to download a summary blog post was published on the Climate Strategies blog site.



We published two policy briefs for our climate and trade projects in October 2017. One brief covers the issue of tackling fossil fuel subsidies and the second on how to design border carbon adjustments for climate.



The third project workshop was held in Geneva in October 2017, in partnership with FES Geneva. The workshop addressed options for border carbon adjustments, fossil fuel subsidies, and addressing institutional relations between climate and trade. All presentations and materials can be downloaded from the CS website.

UPCOMING EVENTS: We will be holding two events for the project at COP23 in Bonn. The first 'Trade and Climate Change – New Potential, New Pitfalls?' will be held on November 8th 2017, in partnership with DIE-GDI at the Interconnections Zone.

We will also be holding a Roundtable Dinner to present project outcomes on November 10th 2017. This is an invite-only event, please contact us if



HIGHLIGHTS ON PROJECTS

Follow @climatestrat for updates on events and reports

you would like to attend.

For more information about these events, please email info@climatestrategies.org.

PUBLICATIONS: The two policy briefs are available to download from the project webpage. Two full reports, that will complement the briefs, will be published later this year.

WEBPAGE: climatestrategies.org/projects/making-the-international-trading-system-work-for-climate-change/

COP21: Results, Implications, Pathways and Policies for Low-Emissions European Societies (COP21-RIPPLES)

This EU-funded Horizon2020 funded project officially launched in December 2016 with a consortium of 18 international institutions. It will run for three years. The projects aims are threefold, to: assess the adequacy of NDCs and pathways to 2°C/1.5°; analyse the economic and security dimensions of NDCs; and assess the adequacy of COP21 outcomes.

The first stakeholder workshop and second project meeting were held back-to-back in London, in June 2017. This workshop presented the first set of preliminary results to the project Advisory Board, on decarbonisation pathways scenarios and international climate governance structures, for their feedback.

UPCOMING EVENTS: We are holding a side event 'A European Perspective: Adequacy of the Paris Agreement towards Facilitating Global Decarbonisation' on November 7th 2017, at the EU Pavilion at COP23.

For more information about this event, please email info@climatestrategies.org.

PUBLICATIONS: Two project research reports were published in September 2017. The first reviews competitiveness, carbon leakage and EU policy options in the post-Paris landscape. The second identifies key concepts, core challenges and the governance functions of international climate governance. Both reports are available to download from the project website.

WEBPAGE: www.cop21ripples.eu

European Climate Friendly Materials Platform

This project, to be led jointly by Climate Strategies and DIW Berlin, intends to assess how policies can enable the materials sector to successfully innovate and subsequently adopt new low-carbon technologies. It will also review what elements need to be put in place at the EU and member state level, to allow for large scale emissions reductions. This project builds on the 2016-2017 project work on "Policy Design for a Climate-Friendly Materials Sector".

A 'pre-kick-off' stakeholder meeting was held in Berlin, in October 2017. The event discussed how public policy makers can select which mitigation technologies and projects to support in the materials sector, what the optimal design of the innovation funds will look like, and how we can efficiently design public financial support to stimulate private innovation investments that will contribute to a transformation. A summary note of the workshop is available to download from the website.

PUBLICATIONS: All deliverables and papers produced as part of the previous work on this topic can be found on the project webpage.

WEBPAGE: <http://climatestrategies.org/projects/european-climate-friendly-materials-platform/>

