



## Highlights on CPJ articles for 2018 so far include:

**Free to access Editor's Choice:** CPJ is pleased to share a collection of free to access papers, to coincide with the next round of climate change negotiations in Bonn (May 2018): 'Focus on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) Under the Paris Agreement'. These papers go beyond the headlines to explore what lies behind particular NDCs – what they mean in practice, on the ground – and what commitments we might expect from countries in the future, as they seek to balance competing domestic forces and interests.

**Thematic sections:** The most recent issue [Vol 18, Issue 5], contained a special thematic section on 'Public perception and support for climate policies', an important topic which is receiving a growing number of submissions to the journal. Watch out for forthcoming thematic sections on carbon pricing and the implications of the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement.

**New Special Supplements:** A special supplement on China's national emissions trading system will be published very soon, with two more special supplements under preparation. Several special issues are in the pipeline, including on national development and mitigation pathways (with a call for proposals to be issued soon), loss and damage, next generation NDCs and fossil fuels.

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

**WEBSITE:** [climatestrategies.org/climate-policy-journal/](http://climatestrategies.org/climate-policy-journal/)

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## Climate Strategies Blog

### CS/CPJ Blog

In April 2018, we redesigned our blog page. Eight new blog posts have been published on the blog page since late November 2017:

- Beyond Facilitative Accountability in the Paris Agreement: Three Additional "Accountability Pathways" (November 2017)
- Will Social Movement Focused on Fossil Fuel Supply Help Solve the Climate Crisis? (December 2017)
- Assessing the US Retreat from the Paris Agreement: Backtracking to Kyoto? (January 2018)
- Empirical Calibration of Climate Policy using Corporate Solvency (January 2018)
- The Political Struggle in Eliminating Coal (March 2018)
- A Dirty Business: Russia, Climate Change and the Mining Industry (April 2018)
- China's National ETS: What are the Key Challenges for Establishing an MRV System? (April 2018)
- The Battle of Economic Structure and China's Future Carbon Emissions (May 2018)

**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 Błachowicz (Managing Director), Alexandra Carr (Programme and Communication Manager). Roxana Mastor (Programme and Communication Manager - from late May 2018).



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## Employing Trade Policy to Achieve Climate Goals

### Harro van Asselt

How can the international trade system help realise climate change objectives? This question has been at the core of our project, 'Making the Trade System Work for Climate Change'. In the project, we carried out a comprehensive review of options for addressing the trade-climate relationship, followed by an in-depth analysis of two areas, fossil fuel subsidies and border carbon adjustments (BCAs).

The trading system can help achieve climate and sustainable development goals by promoting the phase-out of such subsidies. Our research examined how specific subsidies in major G20 countries fared under existing World Trade Organization (WTO) law on subsidies, revealing the data challenges that need to be overcome to make a challenge of fossil fuel subsidies more likely. We also proposed several ways forward for international trade agreements – including not only the WTO but also regional trade agreements – to address fossil fuel subsidies, such as technical assistance and capacity-building, improved transparency, voluntary pledge-and-review, political declarations, and crafting rules prohibiting subsidies.

Building on earlier Climate Strategies research, we also focused on the vexing issue of border carbon adjustments. In a post-Paris world of uneven climate efforts, it is likely that calls for measures to address competitiveness concerns and carbon leakage will intensify. We explored ways in which BCAs can be designed to be compatible with WTO law but also be environmentally and economically effective.

In the final stage of our work, we are testing the feasibility of some of the options for climate-smart trade policy reform, through which we will be able to point out which options are worth pursuing in the short- and medium-term.



*Dr Harro van Asselt is Senior Research Fellow at the Stockholm Environment Institute's (SEI) Oxford Centre; Professor of climate law and policy at the University of Eastern Finland; and Member of Climate Strategies.*



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## HIGHLIGHTS ON PROJECTS

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### 4th Global Climate Policy Conference (GCPC)



We are pleased to announce the 4th Global Climate Policy Conference (GCPC) under the working title: 'Harnessing Research for Climate Ambition and Transparency', to be held on 16th and 17th August 2018, in São Paulo, Brazil.

The conference will be co-hosted with Instituto Clima et Sociedade (ICS), Iniciativa Climática de Mexico (ICM) and Konrad Adenauer Foundation's Regional Programme on Energy Security and Climate Change in Latin America (EKLA-KAS), with support from the Oak Foundation.

The aim of the GCPC 2018 is to identify and explore the challenges and opportunities faced as countries implement their NDCs under the Paris Agreement and transition towards low-carbon development.

We have an open call for researchers to submit abstracts, to be presented on the first day of the conference. Abstracts must be submitted in English and sent to [info@climatestrategies.org](mailto:info@climatestrategies.org) by May 18th 2018. Full detail about the conference and call can be found on the event website.

**WEBPAGE:** <https://climatestrategies.org/gcpc-2018/>

### Coal Transitions: Research and Dialogue on the Future of Coal

This project, jointly led by Climate Strategies and IDDRI, over the last 18 months has been linking and reinforcing policy, research and advocacy efforts on coal transition in different countries.

The project held an official UNFCCC side event 'Implementing Coal Transitions to Raise Climate Ambition' on November 2017, at COP23 in Bonn. The event presented and discussed emerging insights from the Coal Transitions project, including themes around coal and climate ambition, global trade and stranded assets.

The project recently published two case study reports. The first analysed the risk of stranded assets risks and retirement pathways for China's coal-fired power fleet. The second looked into coal taxes as a potential supply-side climate policy.

We held a stakeholder dialogue in Jharkhand, India in December 2017, co-hosted with the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad. The event discussed

the implications of possible coal transitions – both internationally and in India- the barriers, path dependencies, socio-economic and socio-political conditions under which it could be possible, and to draw insights from international experiences and policy debates.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** We are organising the final project event, a closed international roundtable on the future of coal, in November 2018 in Beijing, China. This event will present and discuss feasible decarbonisation pathways for the project's case study countries (Australia, China, Germany, India, Poland, and South Africa).

For more information about these events, please email [info@climatestrategies.org](mailto:info@climatestrategies.org).

**PUBLICATIONS:** All project reports are available to download from the project website. Over the coming months, the project will publish country reports on feasible pathways for a just coal transition in case study countries (Australia, China, Germany, India, Poland, and South Africa) as well as the final summary reports and a report from global coal modelling.

A separate report on 'Transformations of the Polish Coal Sector', linked closely to our Coal Transitions project, was published in March 2018. The report outlines socio-economic impacts following political and economic reforms in Poland. Details can be found on the project website.

**WEBPAGE:** [www.coaltransitions.org](http://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 trade system work for climate change.

The project published two reports in 2017, providing the research foundations to our policy briefs that were published in October 2017. The first report is an assessment of how fossil fuel subsidies can be tackled through WTO agreements, and the second analyses how border carbon adjustments can be designed to enhance climate action.

The recent findings from these reports were presented at two events at COP23 in Bonn, Germany. They focused on the relationship between international trade and climate change policy, presenting options on how research can contribute to improving the understanding of the interface between trade and climate change policy.



## HIGHLIGHTS ON PROJECTS

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Findings were also presented at a side event at the MC11 in December 2017, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This event, co-hosted with FES Geneva, sought to contribute to improving the understanding of the interface between trade and climate change policy. See the Forward from Project Lead Harro van Asselt's big picture view on the topic.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** We will be holding a discussion meeting in Mexico City, on the 22nd of May 2018. This event, co-hosted with the Iniciativa Climática de Mexico (ICM), will present options for the development of market instruments in order to stimulate climate action for trade. Further policy engagement is anticipated later this year, including with a selection of EU institutions.

For more information about this event, please email [info@climatestrategies.org](mailto:info@climatestrategies.org).

**PUBLICATIONS:** The two reports are available to download from the project webpage. The final project report and policy brief, assessing a set of policy options for trade and climate policy makers, will be available later this year.

**WEBPAGE:** [climatestrategies.org/projects/making-the-international-trading-system-work-for-climate-change/](http://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 Horizon 2020 funded project officially launched in December 2016 with a consortium of 18 international institutions and is currently 18 months into its three year run. The project's 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 second stakeholder workshop, combined with the third project meeting, was held in Warsaw, in April 2018. The event provided an opportunity for the project consortium to present and discuss research findings to date, at the halfway point of the project, to the Advisory Board and selected Polish stakeholders. Key themes included policy expectations, institutions and governance, and technology development.

The project also published two blog posts on the website, the first addressing carbon leakage in a post-Paris landscape, and the second providing a sectoral approach to strengthening international climate governance. Both posts can be read on the project website.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** We will be holding the first project policy dialogue later in 2018. More information about this event will be available on the project website shortly.

For more information about this event, please email [info@climatestrategies.org](mailto:info@climatestrategies.org).

**PUBLICATIONS:** The first project policy brief was published in November 2017. The brief 'Strengthening International Governance' identifies significant potential to accelerate the climate transition by advancing sectoral approaches and institutions in international climate governance.

All project report deliverables and briefs published so far are also available to download on the project website.

**WEBPAGE:** [www.cop21ripples.eu](http://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".

The second stakeholder meeting was held in Berlin, in March 2018. Building on discussions from the first meeting, the event served to discuss the current impact of available individual policy instruments that can impact the three decision modes for sustainable development in the basic materials sector (i.e. engagement and mandates, markets and prices, strategic investment) and enhance multiple mitigation options. Full information about the sessions on the meeting can be found on the event webpage.

**PUBLICATIONS:** A first project report on policy packages will be published in May 2018. All other 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/>

### Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition

As a strategic partner, Climate Strategies has authored an executive briefing under the Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (CPLC) 'How Can Consumption-Based Carbon Pricing Address Carbon Leakage and Competitiveness Concerns?'. CS work with other partners under the coalition towards the long-term objective of a carbon price applied throughout the global economy. The report can be downloaded from our website.

**WEBPAGE:** <https://climatestrategies.org/publication/cplc-executive-briefing/>