

Action Analysis

Part I: Canonical Mitigation

A. Renewable energy: Chuck Kutscher, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

B. CO₂ capture and storage: Julio Friedmann Energy & Environmental Directorate, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Part II: Geo-engineering

A. Albedo modification: David Keith, University of Calgary

B. Modification of the ocean sink: Dave Karl, University of Hawaii



Getting to Yes

We must remember that we want solutions to work. It can't be enough to identify what's wrong with a strategy as it is first proposed. We must ask: With what changes, would this strategy become acceptable? How might we get from here to there?

The changes can address technical defects, environmental risks, governance,...



How do we want to frame geo-engineering ?

WGI: Ocean fertilization? For the foreseeable future, it's science. What fun!

WGII: Rechanneling rivers and building canals to move water from newly wetter areas to newly drier areas? It's adaptation. It's our destiny.

WGIII: Albedo modification? It's mitigation. Albedo change has a "CO₂-equivalence," just like N₂O. Create a market in "forcing," and let it work. Bring it on.

WGIV: There's something new here. Humanity's proper relationship with the natural world is at issue. Whoa!



The more we fear climate change, the less we can allow ourselves to be squeamish about less than perfect “solutions.” Here, “we” is the professional community, and “we” is the public.

However, we may decide, in some situations, to forego a cure that we judge to be worse than the disease. Using another analogy, we may decide that buying more than a certain amount of insurance is excessive. We will prefer the disruption of climate change to the disruption arising from avoiding it.

