The Gordon Goodman Memorial Lecture
21 September 2017

Mitigation on methadone –
The trouble with negative emissions
Professor Kevin Anderson
Mitigation on methadone – the trouble with negative emissions

With sixteen of the seventeen warmest years on record having occurred since 2000; with oceans both warming and acidifying; and with unequivocal scientific evidence that burning fossil fuels is the principal cause – what can we do to rapidly reduce emissions?

This presentation will revisit the scale of the climate challenge, arguing that whilst the science of climate change has progressed, we obstinately refuse to acknowledge the rate at which our emissions from energy need to be reduced. The Paris Agreement exemplifies this duality – relying as it does on highly speculative negative emission technologies to balance incremental tweaks to a ‘business-as-usual’ model with rapidly dwindling carbon budgets for 2°C. Similarly, the eloquent rhetoric of green growth continues to eclipse analysis demonstrating the need for radical social as well as technical change.

Taking these issues head on, this seminar will outline a quantitative framing of mitigation, based on IPCC carbon budgets, before finishing with more qualitative examples of what a genuine low-carbon future may contain.

#GGLecture  #NETs  #Climate

Kevin Anderson is Professor of Energy and Climate Change at the University of Manchester and Deputy Director of the internationally renowned Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. He is one of Great Britain’s most recognized climate researchers and is well known for his skills in communicating climate science to decision-makers, the business sector, civil society and media. He has been pivotal in establishing research around carbon budgets and the transformation of different societal sectors to acceptable mitigation levels based on politically agreed goals. In Uppsala, Kevin will carry on the work initiated by the first Zennström professor Doreen Stabinsky: to establish a world-leading node in the area of climate change leadership, that will be unique, both in Sweden and internationally.
Programme 13:30 – 17:00, at The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

13.30 Welcome and introduction
- Christina Moberg, President, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- Astrid Söderbergh Widding, Vice Chancellor, Stockholm University
- Anneli Sundin, Communications Officer, Stockholm Environment Institute
- Anders Wijkman, Member of The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Chair in the Governing Board, Climate-KIC

13.50 Memorial Lecture: Mitigation on methadone – the trouble with negative emissions
Kevin Anderson, Professor in climate and energy, and Uppsala University’s Zennström Professor in Climate change leadership at the Centre for Environment and Development Studies (CEMUS)

14.30 Scientific discussion
- Kevin Anderson
Respondents:
- Jerker Jarsjö, Associate Professor, Stockholm University
- Clarisse Kehler Siebert, Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute
Moderator: Georgia Destouni, Professor, Stockholm University, Member of The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

15.15 Coffee break

15.45 Panel discussion: The broader perspective – What are the key steps to achieve a low-carbon future?
- Kevin Anderson
- Victor Galaz, Deputy Science Director and Associate Professor at Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University
- Teresa Anderson, Policy Officer, Climate & Resilience, ActionAid International
- Eva Blixt, Research Manager at Jernkontoret, Swedish steel producers’ association
Moderator: Åsa Persson, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute

16.30 Concluding remarks:
- Bo Kjellén, SEI Associate, Stockholm Environment Institute
- Johan Kuylenstierna, Executive Director, Stockholm Environment Institute

17.00 Mingle and refreshment

Gordon Goodman appreciated the complexity of the interdependent relationships involved with natural and human systems. He was convinced that understanding these systems required the tools and insights of natural and social science, social and political science and economics. And developing this understanding should be done in an engaged dialogue with a variety of actors at local, national, regional and global levels. Gordon Goodman will forever be remembered for his ability to instill hope, always focusing on the solution. SEI continues to work in this spirit to deliver evidence-based research that informs and engages policy processes, development action, and business practice worldwide.