

ENVIRONMENTAL
LAW



presents

**Confronting Climate Change:
In California And Beyond**

International Climate Change Diplomatic Initiatives

Friday, April 7, 2023
3:45 - 5:00 pm

Speakers:

Cliff Rechtschaffen, Commissioner Emeritus
California PUC

Jessie Buendia, Vice President of Sustainability & National Director
Green for All, Dream.org

Fan Dai, Director
California-China Climate Institute

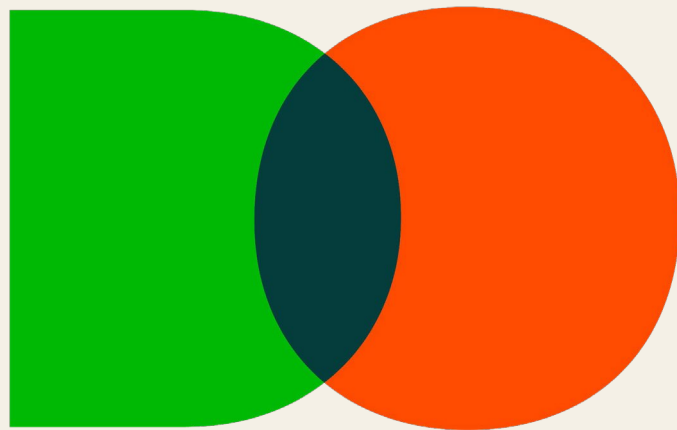
Conference Reference Materials

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DREAM
.ORG

**At Dream.Org, we dream of
a world beyond poverty,
pollution, prisons, and
polarization.**

Why Civil Society is Important

**United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change
Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt**



The U.S. and the threat of a divided nation

When American Democracy Looks Weak, Alliances May Erode

Partisanship Doesn't Just Color Our View of Facts—It Alters How We Think about Hypotheticals



The Rise of Political Violence in the United States

Misinformation is eroding the public's confidence in democracy

Understanding partisanship nuances may be the key to climate action

'Where's the middle?' In closely divided US, a country waits.

Trust and Distrust in America

Building Bridges on Climate at COP27



Climate Injustice in the U.S. and Across the Globe

Racism drives environmental inequality – but most Americans don't realize

Study: Heat Waves Cost Poor Countries the Most, Exacerbating Inequality

People of colour have been shut out of the climate debate. Social justice is the key to a greener world

A photograph showing several people wading through deep floodwaters in a rural area. The water is murky and reaches up to the people's chests. The background shows some trees and a simple structure.

In Addressing Climate Change, Business as Usual Is Climate Injustice

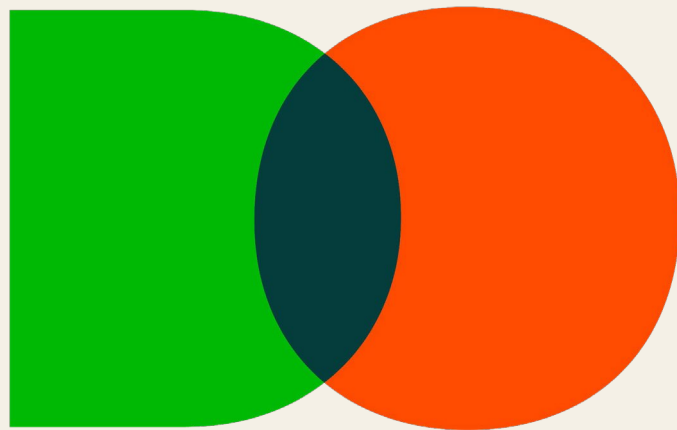
For Women's Health, Climate Change and Inequality Are a Dangerous Combination

Climate change affects people of color the most. But TV news lacks representation, report finds.

Climate Justice

First ever Climate Justice Pavilion in the Blue Zone





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Berkeley

California-China
Climate Institute

*Facilitating U.S.-China action to
advance a low carbon future*



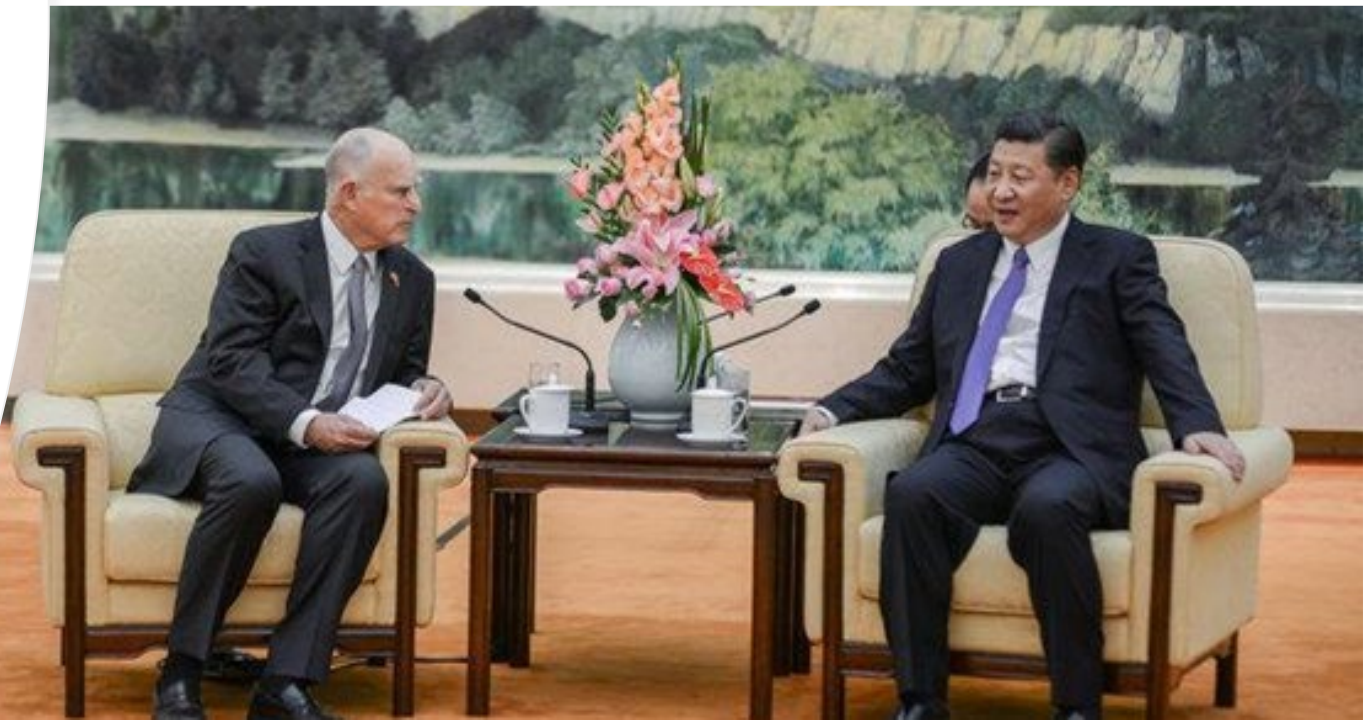
BerkeleyLaw
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

College of
Natural Resources

The California-China Climate Institute

- Draws on the power of partnership and subnational leadership and unites experts and policymakers across the Pacific to support dialogue, research, and training to achieve their near, mid- and long-term climate goals.
- California has several China-California Climate Memorandum of Understandings, at the national (the National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Commerce), provincial (Guangdong, Jiangsu, Sichuan, Zhejiang), and municipal (Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen) levels
- Serves as a joint bilateral platform to support climate action, with support of state agencies, provincial and city officials.
- Builds on the longstanding partnership between China and California at the national and subnational levels, working to secure a climate-resilient future.



About the Institute

Collaboration

A UC-wide initiative housed jointly at UC Berkeley's School of Law —through its [Center for Law, Energy & the Environment](#) — and [College of Natural Resources](#) that partners with the Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development at Tsinghua University, and with other University of California campuses and leaders.

Leadership

- Includes an Academic Advisory Committee, comprised of faculty across Berkeley and other UC Campuses
- It is led by an Executive Team comprised of:



Jerry Brown
Chair



Mary Nichols
Vice Chair



Fan Dai
Director

Ken Alex, Advisor

Aimee Barnes, Senior Advisor

Jordan Diamond, Advisor

Daniel Farber, Faculty Advisor

Evan Westrup, Senior Advisor



David Ackery
Dean, Raousser College of
Natural Resources,
UC Berkeley



Michael Lu
Dean, School of Public Health
, UC Berkeley



Alex Wang
Professor, UC Los Angeles
Advisory Committee Co-Chair



Nan Zhou
Scientist,
Lawrence Berkeley National
Laboratory
Advisory Committee Co-Chair



**Maximilian
Auffhammer**
Professor, UC Berkeley
Advisory Committee Co-Chair



Jonas Meckling
Associate Professor,
UC Berkeley



David Anthoff
Ast. Professor, UC Berkeley



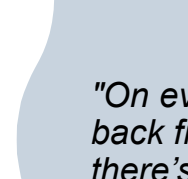
Eric Biber
Professor, UC Berkeley



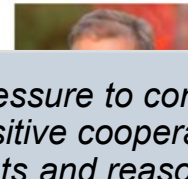
William Collins
Professor in Residence,
UC Berkeley



Inez Y. Fung
Professor, UC Berkeley



Hsiang



Daniel Kammen
Professor

"On every side there's pressure to compete, to vilify, to pull back from any kind of positive cooperation with China – and there's plenty of arguments and reasons for all of that – but the big overarching fact of life is that we share this atmosphere together, and together we need to make it better. We have a window of opportunity and it will be up to us – as well as all the politicians and the powerful people in China – to realize this is a limited time and we've got to seize the moment." - Jerry Brown

CCCI at COP27

- Achieving Multi-wins in Environment, Climate and Economy through Synergy co-control of air pollution and climate change
- Co-learning for Climate Action: University-led Collaborative Research Partnerships to Support Equitable Science
- California's Climate Leadership: A multi-sector approach to achieving carbon neutrality
- Strategic Opportunities in China's Decarbonization: Meeting Climate Goals and the SDGs in the Critical Decade

Subnational Dialogue and Capacity Building

- CCCI serves as the Secretariat to several MOUs between the State of California and subnational jurisdictions in China, including:
 - a 2021 MOU between the California Energy Commission and City of Zhangjiakou
 - a 2019 MOU between The State of California and Jiangsu Province
 - An MOU with Guangdong Province
 - Subnational Governments Training: Chinese Ministry of Commerce - California-China Climate Institute Subnational Governments' Training Curriculum



Research

- **US:**
- States' climate action map
- Achieving a Multi-Beneficial Nature-Based Climate Strategy: An Institutional Framework for Advancing Subnational Climate Action
- Key Governance Issues in California's Carbon Cap-and-Trade System
- States' Climate Action for Achieving Carbon Neutrality: What's out there and yet to be done?
- **China:**
- [14th Five-year Plan Chinese Subnational Climate Policy Briefs](#)
- *July 14, 2022:* [U.S. - China Subnational Climate Cooperation - Updates, Progress, and Recommendations: Part Two](#)
- *July 11, 2022:* [U.S. - China Subnational Climate Cooperation - Updates, Progress, and Recommendations: Part One](#)

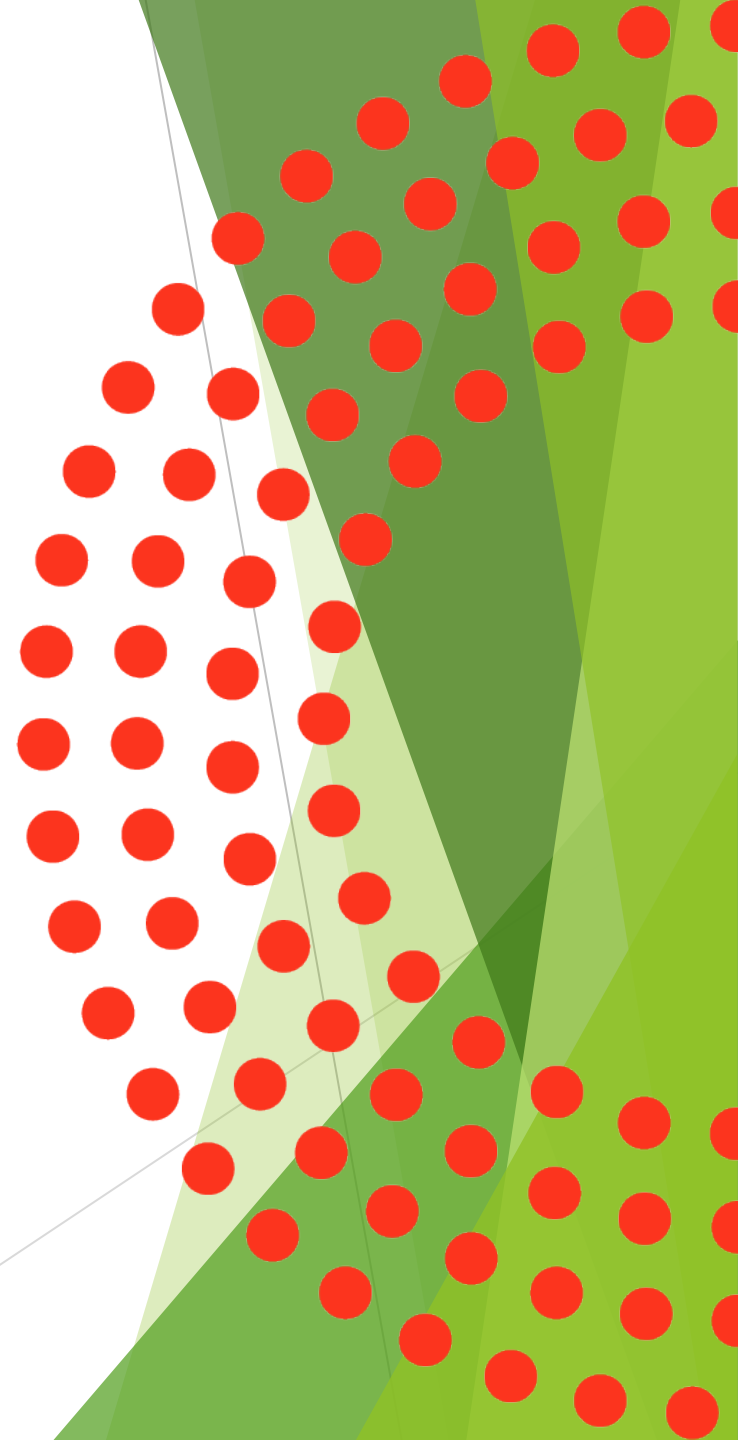
International Climate Change Diplomatic Initiatives

Clifford Rechtschaffen
California Lawyers Association
April 7, 2023

Subnational Climate Efforts



The Under2 Coalition is the largest global network of states and regions committed to reaching net zero emissions by 2050



The extended network represents...

270+



governments

50%



**of the
global economy**

1.75bn



people

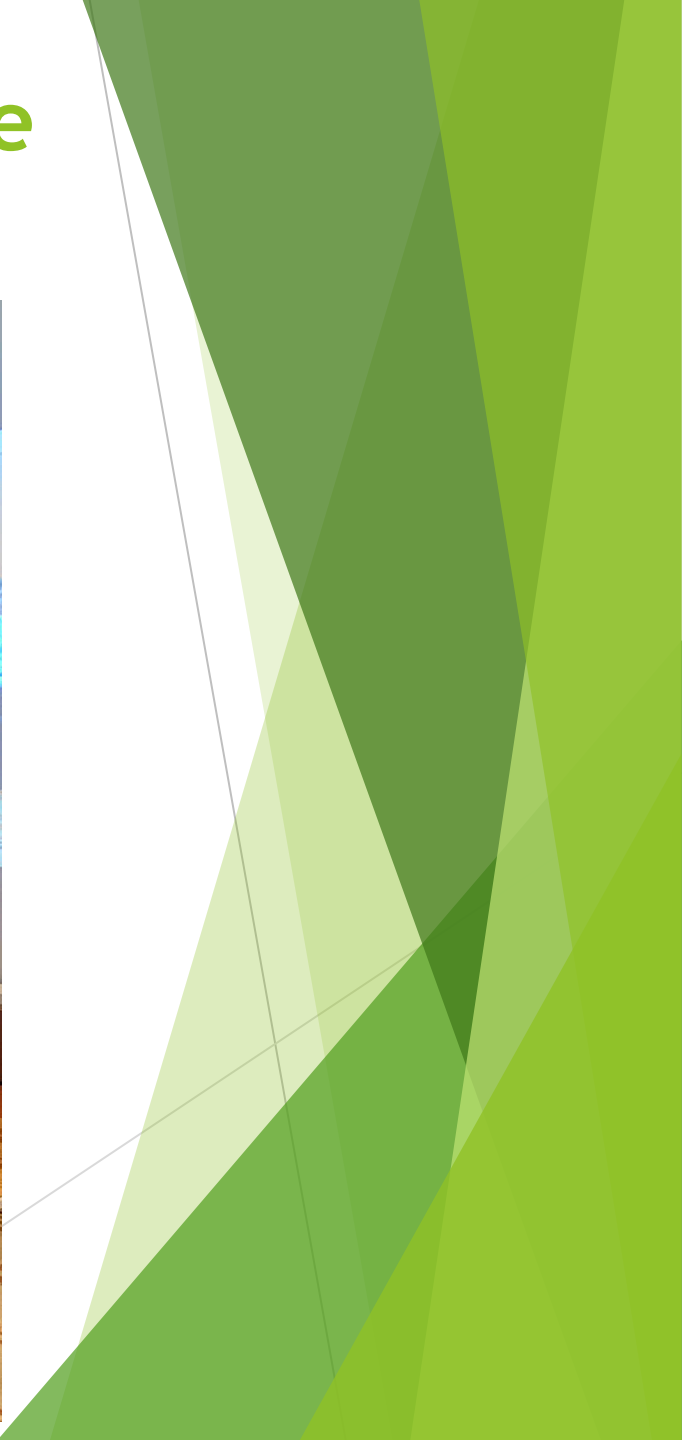
CA's International Agreements

- ▶ Numerous multilateral agreements, i.e.
 - ▶ International ZEV Alliance
 - ▶ Governor's Climate & Forest Task Force
 - ▶ Regulatory Energy Transition Accelerator
- ▶ Several dozen bilateral agreements, i.e.
 - ▶ China 21
 - ▶ Mexico 11
 - ▶ Japan 7
 - ▶ Netherlands 5
 - ▶ Denmark 4

Subnational Meetings- COP 27



COP 27 -Climate Parliament & Greening the Grids Initiative



Moderator

Leuwam Tesfai, Deputy Executive Director for Energy and Climate Policy, California Public Utilities Commission



Leuwam Tesfai was named the CPUC's Deputy Executive Director for Energy and Climate Policy, effective July 1, 2022. She previously served as Commissioner Genevieve Shiroma's Chief of Staff and Legal Advisor, a position she held since 2019 when appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom. She has worked at the CPUC since 2011 in several roles including as an Advisor to former Commissioner Liane M. Randolph and in the CPUC's Legal, Energy and Administrative Law Judge Divisions. Leuwam's private sector experience includes renewable energy markets, siting and permitting generation facilities, and commercialization of clean energy technologies. She serves on the Executive Committee of the Environmental Law Section and on the board of the League of Women Voters of San Francisco. In 2022 she participated in the UN COP 27, in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, as part of Governor Newsom's delegation. She is a graduate of Emory University and the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Panelists

Cliff Rechtschaffen, Commissioner Emeritus, California Public Utilities Commission



Cliff Rechtschaffen served as an appointed commissioner on the California Public Utilities Commission from January, 2017 to December, 2022. At the CPUC he was the lead commissioner on the integrated resource management, building electrification, transportation electrification, Renewables Portfolio Standard, biomethane and renewable gas, Self Generating Incentives Program (SGIP), supplier diversity, and several risk assessment and safety proceedings. Prior to joining the CPUC he served as a senior advisor to Governor Jerry Brown from 2011 to 2017, where he worked on climate, energy, and environmental issues, and as a special assistant attorney general to AG Brown in the California Attorney General's Office from 2007-2010. From 1993-2007, he taught environmental law, directed the environmental law program, and co-founded the Environmental Law and Justice Clinic at Golden Gate University School of Law. From 1986-1993, he worked in the Environment Section of the California Attorney General's Office. He is proud alumnus of the executive committee of the Environmental Law Section.

Jessie Buendia VP, Sustainability Dream.org and National Director Green For All



Jessica “Jessie” Buendia is the National Director of Green For All, an initiative of Dream.org. Green For All works at the intersection of the environmental, economic, and racial justice movements to advance solutions to poverty and pollution. Before coming to Green For All, Jessie served as the Acting Executive Director/Chief Deputy Director of the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) under the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research. SGC promotes sustainability, health, and equity across the State by helping California achieve its climate change and racial equity goals through place-based, community-driven infrastructure investments and transformative programming. At SGC, Jessie oversaw a \$1 billion annual budget and launched two new programs, the Community Assistance for Climate Equity Program and the Health and Equity Program that expanded SGC’s reach and impact in communities across California and propelled SGC as a leader on equity at the state level. Jessie spearheaded the passage of the nation’s first state-level, multi-agency Racial Equity vision statement, action plan, and resolution and served as the State’s host for the Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity and the Interagency Racial Equity Working Group. Jessie currently serves on the board and executive teams of the Fem the Future Foundation and the East Bay Community Law Center. She has held positions at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, San Francisco Foundation, Health Access Foundation, Rose Foundation, California State Legislature, Urban Habitat, and the Greenlining Institute. Jessie has a Master’s Degree in Public Policy from Princeton University, an Advanced Project Management Certificate from Stanford University, and a Bachelor’s Degree from Macalester College. She is a certified coach with a focus on building transformational leadership within the social justice sector. She is originally from Iowa and currently resides in Sacramento with her wife and toddler.

Dr. Fan Dai Director California-China Climate Institute, University of California Berkeley



Dr. Dai has played a significant role leading California’s collaboration with China on climate, energy and environment. She was appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr as Special Advisor on China. Under Brown, Dr. Dai chaired the state’s China Interagency Working Group, and acted as the state’s liaison on its critical economic and environmental initiatives on China. Previously, Dr. Dai served as senior advisor at California Environmental Protection Agency and California Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development, advising on the state’s international policy and global climate partnership. In 2017, she organized Governor Brown’s trip, which resulted in a successful meeting with President Xi Jinping and the commitment to establish the California-China Climate Institute. Dr. Dai is a graduate of Berkeley Law, University of California, and holds a doctoral degree on Environmental Policy and Economics from State University of New York. Her research has been focused on market mechanisms for climate change mitigation, energy efficiency and innovations.