



NZCCRI Seminar Series

Technology is the solution to climate change - or is it people?

Speaker: Ralph Sims

**Professor of Sustainable Energy
Director of the Centre for Energy Research
Massey University**



Abstract: Technological development is essential if we are to achieve the transition of the global energy sector necessary to achieve a 450 ppm greenhouse gas stabilization level (the 2°C target). Rapid deployment of renewable energy, distributed energy, improved energy efficient technologies, along with nuclear and, in the longer term, carbon dioxide capture and storage, is essential – and New Zealand will have to play its part.

Several of these technologies are well understood and already achieving rapid growth in some countries, particularly where strong policies are in place to overcome some of the barriers to using renewable energy resources for heating, cooling, transport as well as electricity. Many others showing considerable potential are still requiring major RD&D investment and other policy support measures.

But are the policies cost-effective? How far can greater learning experience further reduce the costs? What might be the role of local governments in working alongside their communities to help make a difference? What do people think about these “clean energy technologies”? And will the proposed energy transition make people any happier?

Biography: Ralph Sims began his career in Renewable Energy as an agricultural engineer at Massey University, New Zealand in 1971 making and testing biodiesel from vegetable oils and animal fats. He served three terms on the EECA Board before resigning in 2006 to accept a position as Senior Analyst at the IEA (International Energy Agency), Paris for nearly 4 years during which time he produced a wide range of reports including the 550 and 450 ppm policy scenarios of the IEA World Energy Outlook.

He has now returned to his position at Massey University as Professor of Sustainable Energy, and Director, Centre for Energy Research. He was a co-ordinating lead author for the IPCC 4th Assessment report for the “Energy Supply” chapter and is currently leading the “Integration” chapter of the IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy, due for publication early 2011. He is also a Fellow of the Institute of Professional Engineers NZ and a Companion of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

**Date: Thursday 8th of April 2010
Time: 12:15pm-1:15pm
Venue: Rutherford House Lecture Theatre 3
No RSVP is required for this event**