

A global carbon target using human life expectancy

Paul Read – Monash Sustainability Institute and Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences



Monash Sustainability Institute Seminar

Thursday, 22 March 2012
1.00 – 2.00 pm

Lecture Theatre H2.35
Building H
Monash University
Caulfield Campus

No RSVP required. All welcome!
Info: msi-seminars@monash.edu

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Carbon budgets leading up to 2050 paint a grim picture for late adoption of a 'Contraction and Convergence' target, even more so if social progress is predicated on linear conceptions of economic growth. In this work, Paul outlines a cross-national study of two competing carbon budgets against life expectancy and uncovers an important 'Goldilocks' trend that has remained stable over the past half century, and will likely have implications for human health leading up to 2050 and beyond. If international negotiations can achieve a fair Contraction and Convergence target within enough time, there is every likelihood people can grow old, and perhaps even older, in a carbon-constrained world.

Paul Read is a research psychologist, public health lecturer and Fellow at the Monash Sustainability Institute, where his work focuses on human needs and their sustainability across countries and time. He has worked with Harvard, the United Nations and World Health Organization.



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