



**RESOURCES**  
FOR THE FUTURE

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Statement of Phil Sharp, President, Resources for the Future, on the Climate Dialogue at Pocantico

The participants of the Climate Dialogue at Pocantico and the Pew Center on Global Climate Change should be commended for advancing the debate on the design of a post-Kyoto climate policy architecture. As the international community begins deliberating about actions to take beyond 2012 later this month in Montreal, the report generated from the Pocantico dialogue serves as a timely exploration of the policy elements that can inform and promote international cooperation.

The report's usefulness in large part stems from the process by which it was developed. Because the dialogue engaged the views of a diverse group of participants from developed and developing countries and from the public, for-profit, and not-for-profit sectors, the goal was not to reach consensus on a narrow prescriptive strategy. Rather, the report provides substantive guidance by pointing toward a suite of policy options and ideas that the group agreed merit consideration by the international policy community.

Many of these policy design options reflect the contributions that Resources for the Future, among others, has made to the academic and policy debate on climate change. While Resources for the Future does not take policy positions, RFF scholars have actively researched and engaged the policy community about the following policy elements described in this report: emissions trading, intensity targets, non-binding "no-lose" targets, conditional targets, fuel economy standards, biological carbon sequestration, the climate co-benefits of mitigating local air pollution, technology strategies, and R&D subsidies. RFF scholars also continue work on a number of additional issues, including mechanisms to address cost uncertainty, metrics for evaluating nations' mitigation activities, and the broader question of an international climate change policy architecture.

As the report points out, addressing the profound, global challenge of climate change will require all the creativity and resolve the world can muster. We welcome the Pocantico Dialogue report as a very thoughtful contribution to the climate change policy debate and look forward to our continued engagement on these important policy issues with the Pew Center, the dialogue participants, and the broader international community.