

Globethics Repository

The logo for Globethics, featuring the word "Globethics" in white, sans-serif font centered within a solid blue rectangular background.

ClimateEthics.org Identifies Ethical Issues Entailed by Copenhagen Negotiations

This page was generated automatically upon download from the Globethics Repository.
More information on Globethics see <https://www.globethics.net>. Data and content policy
of Globethics Repository see <https://repository.globethics.net/pages/policy>.

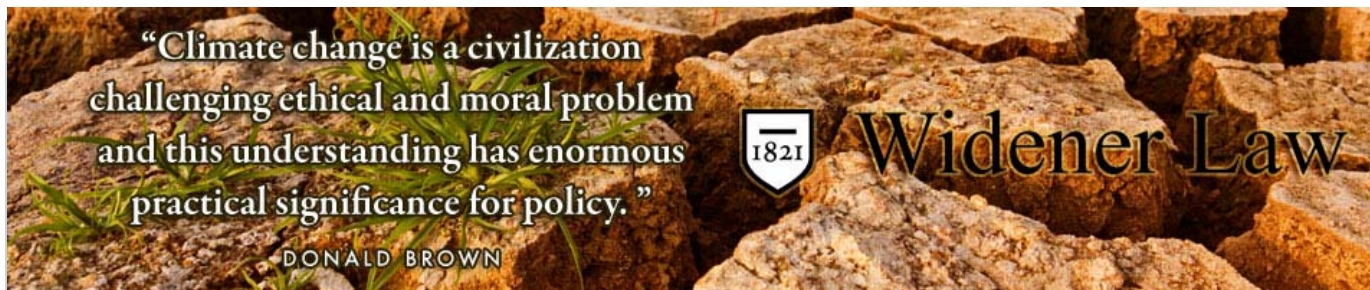
Item Type	Preprint
Authors	Brown, Donald
Publisher	Widener University School of Law
Rights	With permission of the license/copyright holder
Download date	2026-07-03 17:33:41
Link to Item	http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/189501

Ethics and Climate

Donald Brown



[Home](#) [Start Here and Index](#) [About Ethics and Climate](#) [Blogroll](#) [Contact](#)



ClimateEthics.org Identifies Ethical Issues Entailed by Copenhagen Negotiations

Over the next few weeks ClimateEthics.org will be reporting on ethical issues at the center of the Copenhagen climate change negotiations as they unfold. ClimateEthics.org has already published several articles on these issues that have arisen as the world prepared for Copenhagen. See, for instance, [Recommendations for Strengthening the Ethical Dimensions of the UNFCCC Negotiating Text Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#), and [Ethical Failures of National GHG Emissions Reduction Proposals Approaching Copenhagen](#), [Uncertainty and REDD: an Ethical Approach to this Nagging Problem](#), [Contraction & Convergence and Greenhouse Development Rights: A Critical Comparison Between Two Salient Climate-Ethical Concepts](#)

A few days before Copenhagen, ClimateEthics.org sees the following civilization challenging ethical issues raised by the Copenhagen Agenda. References to “non-papers” in the following are documents that have been developed by preparatory meetings leading up to Copenhagen.

ClimateEthics.org will be expanding on this preliminary analysis as the Copenhagen agenda moves along in the next two weeks.

A. Long -term Share Vision (See non-paper 52):

1. Should developing countries contribute to moving the world to a low carbon emissions pathway through nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs)?
2. Should the long-term global goal for emissions reductions include a stabilization of CO₂ at 350 ppm, 400ppm, 450ppm?
3. Will nations commit to do their fair share of ghg emissions reductions necessary to avoid dangerous anthropocentric interference with the climate system?

Subscribe



Categories

[Adaptation and Responsibility for Damages \(13\)](#)

[Allocation Issues \(14\)](#)

[Atmospheric Targets \(25\)](#)

[cancun \(3\)](#)

[cap and trade \(3\)](#)

[climate change and markets \(8\)](#)

[climate change commercials \(1\)](#)

[climate change disinformation \(12\)](#)

[climate change ethics \(33\)](#)

[climate change governance \(10\)](#)

[climate change impacts \(4\)](#)

[climate change policy-making \(28\)](#)

[climate change video \(3\)](#)

[climate ethics \(13\)](#)

[Contraction and Convergence \(2\)](#)

[Copenhagen \(7\)](#)

[crime against humanity \(7\)](#)

[disinformation campaign \(see also climate change disinformation\) \(4\)](#)

[Distributive and International Justice \(17\)](#)

[Durban \(2\)](#)

[Duty to acknowledge risk \(8\)](#)

4. Should there be global goal for emissions ghg reductions at 2020 and 2050?
What should the percentage reductions be by these dates?
5. Should the UNFCCC financial mechanism include: (a) an adaptation window, (b) a compensation window, (c) a technology window, (d) a REDD window.
6. Should the international community agree to limit global warming to 2^o C, or 1.5^o C?
7. Should the international community agree to reduce average global emissions to 2 tons per capita?
8. Should developed nations agree that further delay in reducing ghg emissions will increase their climate debt/
9. How quickly are parties willing to act to achieve the lowest possible ghg atmospheric stabilization target.
10. Whose interests are considered by nations when they adopted a climate change strategy? Have they considered duties and responsibilities to those most vulnerable to climate change including many of the world's poorest people and particularly vulnerable subgroups?
11. Do nations that have adopted a national ghg targets looked at their international responsibilities or only national self-interest?
12. What are the ethical issues raised by cost-benefit analyses of proposed international climate change regimes?

B. Allocation and acceptance of national ghg national targets to replace the Kyoto Protocol. (non-paper 28)

1. What is each nation's willingness to accept their fair share of global emissions that will achieve a just and safe ghg atmospheric stabilization level?
2. To what extent is the right to development limited by obligations to reduce ghg emissions??
3. Should adaptation and mitigation efforts under the UNFCCC be given equal consideration?
4. Should developed countries commitments be legally binding while developing country commitments are voluntary?
5. Should ghg stabilization levels be less than 350 ppm?
6. Should aggregate ghg emissions by developed countries be reduced by 25-to 40 percent by 2020 compared to 1990.
7. Is each nation's ghg reduction commitment ethically justified given the urgency of most-recent science conclusions that rapid peaking of global emissions followed by very steep global ghg emissions are necessary to prevent possibly catastrophic warming.
8. What is each nations justification for not reducing ghg emissions as quickly as possible to their fair share of safe global emissions given the longer the international community waits to reduce ghg emissions the more difficult it will be to stabilize ghg at safe levels?
9. What are the duties of those nations that have caused most of the increases in ghg to take responsibility for past emissions?
10. To what extent are economic arguments made by nations in support of their national ghg strategy ethically justifiable?

C. Adaptation To Climate Change (non-paper 53)

Economics and Climate Change (21)

Economics and Cost (23)

ethical questions raised by climate change (25)

ethics and energy policy (11)

ethics and scientific uncertainty, Add category (11)

ethics of climate change (31)

General Climate Ethics (75)

global warming ethics (39)

Higher education and climate change ethics (3)

Human Rights-Universal Rights (6)

hurricanes and climate change (1)

Independent Responsibility to Act (11)

liability for climate change (1)

magnitude of needed greenhouse emissions reductions (5)

Market Theory (1)

Media and climate change (5)

Media Coverage of Climate Change (13)

Mitigation (4)

Obama and climate change (3)

Practical need to see climate change ethical issues Add category (6)

Presiden Obama and climate change (4)

press and climate change (8)

Procedural Justice and Fair Process (8)

propaganda and climate change (2)

Qatar climate negotiations (2)

reasonable skepticism (17)

renewable energy ethics (3)

Romney and climate (1)

scientific disinformation (20)

Scientific Uncertainty and Risk (34)

sustainability ethics (4)

sustainability law (1)

temperature limits (1)

tornadoes (1)

Trading Issues (2)

Uncategorized (2)

US Climate Ethics (20)

US Congress and climate change ethics

1. Who is responsible for paying for climate change damages that are already being experienced, could be avoided if action is now taken, or are unavoidable because there is no way of protecting from some kind of damages?
2. Must financial support for adaptation be substantially scaled-up, adequate, predictable, sustainable, stable, timely, sufficient, commensurate, country and demand driven and additional to ODA?
3. Should adaptation funding be prioritized so that least developed countries, small island developing states, and countries in Africa affected by drought, desertification, and floods get a preference?
4. How much money should be made available for adaptation in any post-Kyoto regime?
5. How to ethically order priorities for likely scarce adaptation funds?
6. Who gets to decide how adaptation funds will be spent?
7. How to fund adaptation in a way that is distributively and procedurally just.
8. Should adaptation funding go to nations, sub-national governments, regions, groups, or individuals?
9. How should historic responsibility be considered in assigning adaptation responsibility given : (a) developed nations have contributed most to recent increases atmospheric ghg concentrations, (b) some countries that are often classified as developing countries are arguably already or soon will exceed their fair share of safe ghg emissions (b) different arguments can be made when historical reasonability should be assigned given the need to consider when nations should have been aware that emissions from their territories where putting people and ecological systems at risk; (c) within all nations there are great differences among peoples and organizations in amounts of ghg that have been emitted, and (d) humans have been affecting the concentrations of ghg in the atmosphere for thousands of years by such activities as forest clearing and agriculture.

D. Technology Transfer (see, non-paper 47)

1. What are the ethical obligations of developed nations to fund technology transfer to developing nations?
2. Is technology transfer from developed to developing countries obligated by climate debt?
3. Do developed nations have a duty to remove barriers to transfer sustainable technology to developing countries?
4. Do developing countries have the right to identify their technology needs in a way that is nationally determined?
5. Do developed nations have a duty to establish a Technology Mechanism that is supported by predictable funding?
6. What amount of funding should be made available for technology transfer
7. To what extent should intellectual property rights be amended to facilitate technology transfer?
8. What institutional structures need to be created to assure adequate and appropriate technology transfer to developing countries?.

E. Deforestation and REDD. (see, non-paper 39)

1. How much funding should be made available by developed nations to prevent

(13)

US media and climate change (6)

US participation in international climate negotiations (10)

US responsibility (24)

Video (11)

wind power (1)

Archives Month/Year

Select Month

Recently Blogged

On The Practical Need To Examine Climate Change Policy Issues Through An Ethical Lens

A video: Why Politicians May Not Rely On Their Own Uninformed Opinion On Climate Change Science.

Why Politicians May Not Ethically Rely on Their Own Uninformed Opinion About Climate Science and 10 Questions That The Press Should Ask Politicians About Climate Science In Light of This Responsibility.

A short video : Can The United States Justify Its Unwillingness to Reduce Its GHG Emissions on the Basis of US Economic Interest Alone?

The Climate Change Disinformation Campaign: What Kind Of Crime Against Humanity, Tort, Human Rights Violation, Malfeasance, Transgression, Villainy, Or Wrongdoing Is It? Part Two: Is The Disinformation Campaign a Human Rights Violation Or A Special Kind of Malfeasance, Transgression, Villainy, Or Wrongdoing ?

Recent Comments

Donald A. Brown on On The Practical Need To Examine Climate Change Policy Issues Through An Ethical Lens

The Antediluvian › News & Comments 3/11/13 on On The Practical Need To Examine Climate Change Policy Issues Through An Ethical Lens

cathy strickler on The Climate Change Disinformation Campaign: What Kind Of Crime Against Humanity, Tort, Human Rights Violation, Malfeasance, Transgression, Villainy, Or Wrongdoing Is It? Part One: Is The Disinformation Campaign a Crime Against Humanity or A Civil Tort?

Dan on A video: Why Politicians May Not Rely On Their Own Uninformed Opinion On Climate Change Science.

Donald A. Brown on A video: Why Politicians May Not Rely On Their Own Uninformed Opinion On Climate Change Science.

deforestation through REDD?

2. What goals should be set for halting forest cover loss in developing countries by 2020 and at late stages?
3. Should REDD be part of the flexibility mechanisms under the UNFCCC given problems with environmental effectiveness, leakage, permanence, measurement, monitoring, and enforcement of forest projects?
4. Should REDD projects be consistent with nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs)?
5. Who should be funded for deforestation projects?
6. To whom should funding go?- nations, regional and local governments, people?
7. How should baselines be set for REDD projects?
8. Should those who have not acted responsibly to protect forest resources now receive benefits of REDD funding?
9. Who should decide on the acceptability of REDD projects?
10. What types of activities should be funded?
11. Should tree plantations be funded under REDD?
12. Who should be responsible for enforcement of REDD projects?
13. How should rights of indigenous people be protected from REDD projects?
14. Should actions under REDD be undertaken in phases including national action plans, policies and measures, capacity building, and technology transfer?
15. Should specialized funds be developed under REDD?
16. Should all REDD funding be additional to ODA?
17. How should measurement, reporting, and verification of REDD projects be managed?
18. Should all REDD projects accounting of carbon stocks be in accordance with methodological guidance adopted by the COP?

F. Ethical Issues Raised By Trading Carbon

1. Is it ethically supportable to give entities property rights to the atmosphere when issuing climate permits?
2. Should allowances to emit carbon be auctioned or given away?
3. Should off-sets from caps be allowed given problems with environmental effectiveness, leakage, permanence, and enforceability of off-set projects?
4. Should any entity be able to avoid reducing their emissions because they can afford to buy permits from someone else?
5. Should developing countries give up their ability to find cheaper carbon reductions when they allow someone to fund a CDM project in their country?
6. Who in any developing country should have the right to approve a CDM project?
7. What would distributive justice issues be raised by how carbon emission allowances are awarded.?

G. Other Cross-Cutting Ethical Issues

1. What are the ethical issues raised by cost-benefit analyses and other cost arguments made in support of slower responses to climate change?
2. Can a nation wait until new technologies become affordable before making a commitment to reduce the threat of climate change?

Tags

[barriers to climate change policy](#) [barriers to sustainability](#) [climate justice](#) [climate change](#) [climate change and morality](#) [climate change denial](#) [climate change deniers](#) [climate change disinformation](#) [climate change disinformation campaign](#) [climate change ethics](#) [climate change policy](#) [climate change skepticism](#) [climate change skeptics](#) [climate change video](#) [climate ethics](#) [climate ethics and policy](#) [economics and ethics of climate change](#) [Ethics and Climate Change](#) [ethics and climate change policy](#) [ethics and climate change science](#) [Ethics and Global Warming](#) [ethics of climate change](#) [ethics of climate change](#) [ethics of global warming](#) [fair allocation of national greenhouse gas targets](#) [global warming ethics](#) [global warming ethics](#) [global warming video](#) [introduction to climate ethics](#) [obstacles to sustainability](#) [Qatar climate change negotiations](#) [Romney and Climate Change](#) [scientific uncertainty and climate change](#) [skepticism and climate change sustainability ethics](#) [sustainable development and ethics](#) [the media and climate change](#) [US climate change policy](#) [US ethical responsibility for climate change](#) [US media and climate change](#) [US media failure on climate change](#) [US performance on sustainability](#) [US press and climate change](#) [US response to climate change](#) [video on climate change ethics](#)

3. What are the responsibilities of developing countries to reduce the threat of climate change?
4. What are the responsibilities of sub- national governments, organizations, businesses and individuals to reduce the threat of climate change?
5. What ethical issues are raised by scientific uncertainty about climate change impacts?
6. What ethical issues are raised by economic uncertainty about climate change costs and impacts?
7. How to assure that potential victims of climate change have an opportunity to give or withhold fully informed consent to be put at risk by others?
8. What gender considerations should be taken into account in formulating climate change?

By:

Donald A. Brown.

Associate Professor, Environmental Ethics, Science, and Law

Penn State University

Dab57@psu.edu

Category: [Uncategorized](#)

December 6, 2009 at 6:28 pm

Donald A. Brown

Meta

[Log in](#)

[Entries RSS](#)

[Comments RSS](#)

[WordPress.org](#)

Proudly powered by [WordPress](#). Design by [wplook](#)