SESSION 2D

THE ROLE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND EVALUATION IN REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Moderator: Edward Vine, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory & California Institute for Energy and Environment

PANELISTS:

Steve Schiller, Schiller Consulting, Inc. & California Institute for Energy and Environment Bill Prindle, American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy Scott Bernstein, Center for Neighborhood Technology

SESSION SUMMARY:

The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions for mitigating climate change is being discussed at the international, regional, state, and local level – in the public sector as well as in the private sector. But what does this mean for energy efficiency and for evaluation? For many, energy efficiency is the first strategy that one should consider when trying to reduce emissions. But others are offering other solutions as their first choice. In particular, the following questions will be addressed:

- What are the opportunities and challenges in getting "energy efficiency" considered as the Number 1 Strategy for addressing climate change?
- What is the role of evaluation in making sure the emission reductions are credible, reliable, real, and measurable?

The panelists will provide some opening remarks, but this panel is designed to be informal and will emphasize discussion among panelists and the audience.

Steve Schiller will talk about US Climate Registeries and protocols, the latest activities in California on climate change, the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, the European Commission's Energy Efficiency Initiative, and the UNFCCC Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

Bill Prindle will talk about the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) that will include modeling results for energy efficiency's impacts on energy prices, carbon allowance prices, customer bills, and regional economic indicators. He will discuss how the Memorandum of Understanding and the Model Rule handle efficiency, and the the RGGI states are addressing efficiency in their implementation proceedings. Finally, he will discuss the implications of the RGGI experience for other states and national climate policy.

Scott Bernstein will talk about the state of the art of local climate mitigation planning and evaluation, and present some case material of interest to the evaluation community. In particular, he will discuss the problems that he has seen in local government, such as measuring against an array of different baseline years, different ways of attributing emissions and considering lifecycles, and the lack of performance measures for benchmarking.