



 Center for Energy Economics  
and Public Policy  
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

 School of  
Energy Resources

# POWER GENERATION & THE ENVIRONMENT

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## CHOICES AND ECONOMIC TRADE-OFFS

### SUMMARY REPORT

#### **The *Power Generation and the Environment: Choices & Economics Trade-Offs***

symposium was held October 1-2, 2012 in Teton Village, Wyoming. The symposium convened nationally acclaimed academic professionals, research scientists, policy makers, industry stakeholders, and the public to examine the technological and policy options available to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from traditional power generation. Speakers addressed the challenges industry faces in developing solutions that balances economic feasibility and maximum technical performance. Scholars and industry experts examined the regulatory environment needed to advance fossil fuel combustion and alternative energy technologies. The symposium also fostered relationships between industry representatives and researchers.

**H**osted by the University of Wyoming's Center for Energy Economics and Public Policy (CEEPP) and the University of Wyoming's School of Energy Resources (SER), the event consisted of 17 paper presentations in five sessions. The session themes were categorized into the following topics: Carbon Capture and Sequestration Themes, Policy, Regulation Analysis, Costs & Pricing, and Alternative Resources. Papers were solicited between December 2011 and May 2012 from leading engineering and economic scholars, industry representatives, and public policy makers from around the world who conduct high quality research to communicate their findings to a non-technical, yet sophisticated audience. Academic papers were accepted based upon their representation of reputable data and rigorous analysis. In addition to the call for papers, CEEPP solicited interest in preparing a special issue for a journal of significant merit. It was announced during the conference that Resource and Energy Economics (REE) has agreed to publish a special issue journal of the papers presented at the conference. The editors of this issue will include Scott E. Atkinson from the University of Georgia and Chuck Mason from the University of Wyoming.

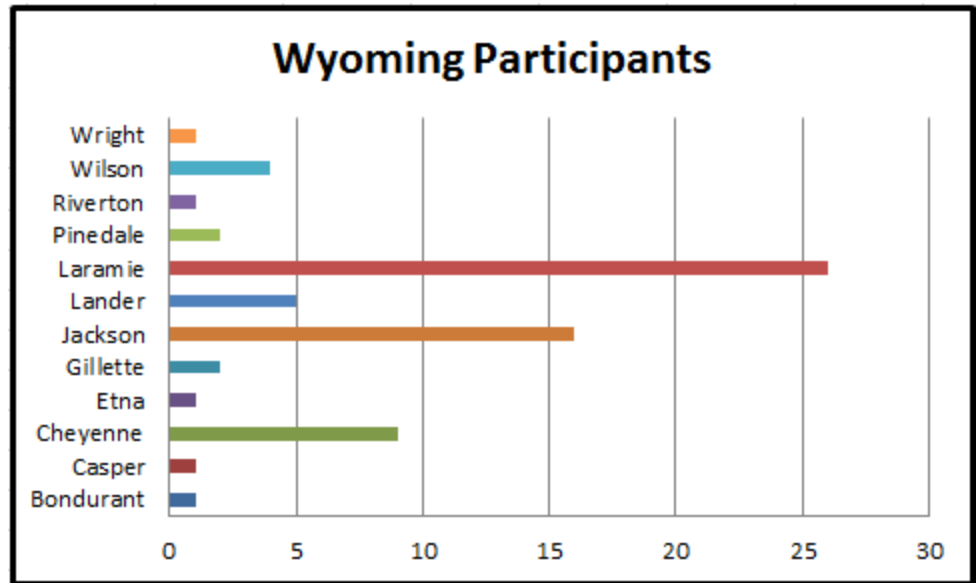
The keynote speaker for the symposium was Samuel Fankhauser, co-director of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, member of the UK Committee on Climate Change, and deputy director of the Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy. Fankhauser discussed the myriad challenges experienced by the United Kingdom in its goal to reach decarbonization by 2030. Fankhauser listed five central conclusions. First, decarbonization needs a solid legal basis to give credibility and overcome inconsistency problems. Second, putting a price on carbon is essential, but low-carbon policies also have to address wider market, investment and behavioral failures. Third, the low-carbon economy starts in the power sector-- clean electricity could be a cost-effective way of decarbonizing many parts of the economy, including transport, heating and parts of industry. Fourth, the low-carbon transition is primarily a revolution of production, not consumption. Both supply-side innovation and demand-side adjustments in lifestyle and behavior are needed, but the former dominate. Fifth, the transition to a low-carbon economy is economically and technologically feasible and achieving it is a question of policy competence and the political will to drive economic and social change.

Other speakers at the event included Howard Herzog, senior research engineer with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Energy Initiative, Ron Harper, retired CEO of Basin Electric and Cooperative, and Joseph Aldy, assistant professor of public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School.

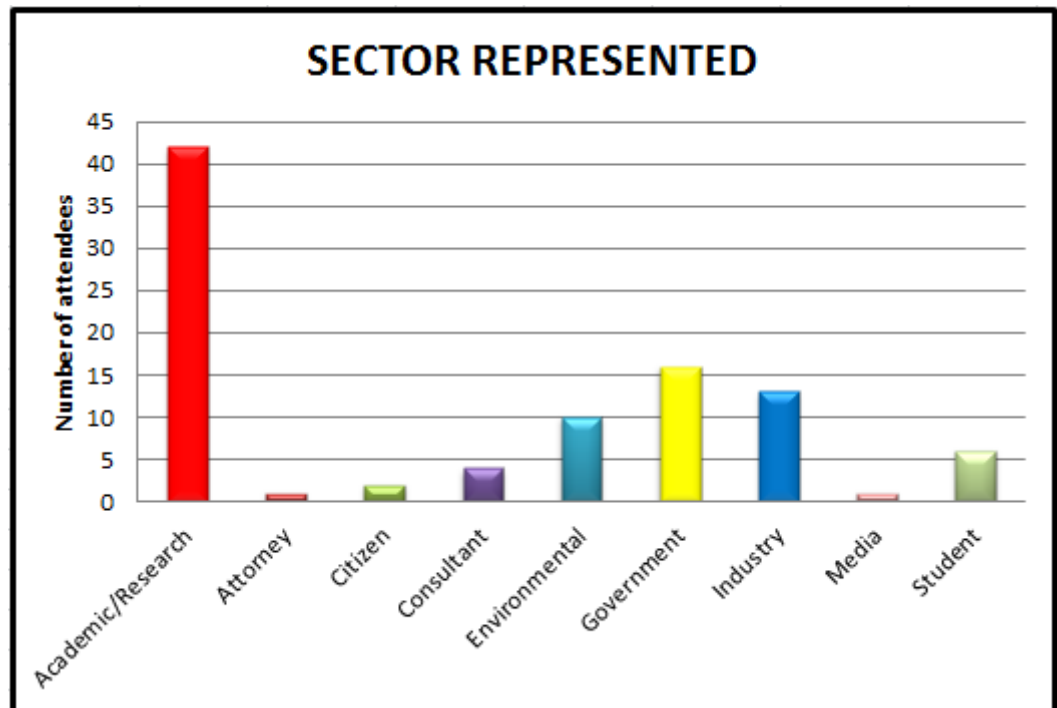


*Samuel Fankhauser giving the keynote speech at the Power Generation symposium October 1, 2012.*

Conference attendance totaled 100 participants from 14 states and three international countries including the United Kingdom, Denmark, and Italy. Seventy percent of conference participants were Wyoming residents with a majority (37% or 26/70) residing in Albany County and Teton County (31% or 22/70).



Nine sectors were represented at the conference with the majority (42 percent) of participants representing the academic and research fields. The second largest sector represented at the conference was government representatives (this includes policy makers, legislators, and regulatory agencies) at 16 percent followed by industry representatives at 13 percent.



Representatives from the environmental sector comprised 10% of attendees following by student participants (6 percent of attendees). The remaining sectors represented at the conference included consultants, attorneys, public citizens, and the media.

**P**ost conference surveys were administered upon the closing of the conference. The survey consisted of nine questions and a total of 36 surveys were completed. Inquiring whether the conference was valuable to the participant, the majority 17/36 or 47 percent said the conference was “valuable” followed by “very valuable” at 13/36 or 36 percent of respondents. Only four respondents (11 percent ) claimed the conference was “a little valuable” and two respondents had “no opinion.”

