CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

KEY DATES

Deadline for abstracts and proposals: 8 April 2020
Notification of acceptance: 6 May 2020
Application to register opens: 11 May 2020

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The words “fossil fuels” appear nowhere in the landmark Paris Agreement on climate change of 2015. However, when the UN Secretary General announced, on the eve of the climate talks in 2019, that “We simply have to stop digging and drilling”, it became clear the discussion around fossil fuels and climate has shifted. The conflict between continued fossil fuel exploration and production and global climate goals is now on the international policy agenda.

The International Conference on Fossil Fuel Supply and Climate Policy explores the many opportunities for, and challenges of, policies that aim to explicitly limit fossil fuel production, in recognition that many countries rely on fossil fuel extraction and trade for their energy security, economic development, and political influence.

The first two conferences, held in 2016 and 2018, sparked new ideas, research and connections among finance specialists, industry representatives, international organizations, activists, and academic researchers. The third conference builds on this momentum, while also recognizing the changed political and policy context – one in which fossil fuel supply may play a more central role. 2020 will see the submission of new, more ambitious “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The climate negotiations (COP 26) will take place in the UK in November 2020, meaning Oxford (UK) in late 2020 can again be a timely venue. With fossil fuels now prominent in both international and domestic policy venues, the 2020 Oxford conference stands to be the most influential and timely yet.
SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT OR PROPOSAL

We welcome three types of proposal:

**Individual presentations:** Abstracts should describe the topic, findings and arguments (300 words max). Full papers are encouraged but not required. Papers submitted to fossilfuelconference@sei.org before the conference will be included in the conference archive. (click here to submit)

**Thematic sessions:** Proposals should include a description of the session topic (300 words max), description of the session format, proposed session chair, and a list of participants. We welcome both traditional panels (e.g. 3-5 presentations; all presenters should submit individual abstracts), or innovative session designs (e.g. debates or speed-talks). Please contact conference organizers if you would like to discuss preliminary ideas for thematic sessions: fossilfuelconference@sei.org. (click here to submit)

**Host a remote conference hub:** We invite expressions of interest from individuals or groups that would like to host their own gathering – anywhere in the world – alongside the main conference in Oxford. We envision that remote conference hubs will view webcast sessions from the main conference, participate in online discussions during the conference, and hold their own local keynotes and panel discussions. If you are interested in hosting a remote event, please provide a short description of where the event will be held, proposed event organizers, and the types of participants you expect to invite. (click here to submit)

All proposals can be submitted at: http://fossilfuelsandclimate.org/2020/call-for-submissions

Presenters and panel participants may include researchers (e.g. economists, modellers, social scientists, and legal scholars), policy-makers, and representatives of the private sector and civil society. All submissions must include a short (200 words or less) biography for each proposed presenter. While there is no limit on the number of submissions, no individual will be selected for more than one paper/presentation/session.
CONFERENCE THEMES

Submissions may address one of the following conference themes, topical, region- or context-specific cases that cut across those themes, or any other topic that is of clear relevance to the conference focus on fossil fuel supply and climate policy.

Theme 1: Implications of a fixed global carbon budget for fossil fuel production

Examples of pertinent questions include:

- How are fossil fuel companies addressing calls to align their plans with the 2°C/1.5°C goals?
- How can individual fossil fuel investments – and portfolios of such investments – be evaluated for consistency with climate goals?
- How much does continued investment in fossil fuel supply (new mines and wells) and transportation infrastructure (e.g. ports and pipelines) lock in a high-carbon economy and high-carbon politics?
- How do geopolitical factors and political economy affect the prospects of limiting fossil fuel extraction?
- What are the challenges and opportunities for socio-economic development in countries engaged in a managed decline of fossil fuel extraction?
- How do subsidies and other forms of financial support affect decision-making on fossil fuel development?
- How does fossil fuel development affect other Sustainable Development Goals?
- How do competing economic forces, such as the green paradox and divestment, interact?

Theme 2: Strategies to manage a decline in fossil fuel supply

Examples of pertinent questions include:

- What are the opportunities and limitations of supply-side policies in specific regional contexts?
- What are the prospects, merits and limitations of litigation against fossil fuel producers?
- What role can international governance, including the UNFCCC and trade and investment agreements, play in constraining fossil fuel supply? What new international agreements might be needed (e.g. a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty)?
- How can voluntary net-zero goals by major fossil fuel producers maximize their environmental effectiveness and transition to industry-wide policy?
- What lessons can be learned from the history of limits on supply for other harmful products (e.g. tobacco control)?
- How can the emission impacts of policies and measures to curb fossil fuel extraction be assessed, quantified, and reported?
- What are the synergies and conflicts between supply-side and more traditional demand-side climate policies (e.g. carbon pricing, renewable energy support)?
What are the synergies and contradictions with other public policy objectives, such as regional development, local environmental protection, health?

How can subsidies to fossil fuel producers be reformed?

What role do social movements (including, but not limited to, the divestment movement and site-based campaigns) play in addressing fossil fuel supply?

What role can development finance institutions play in resource extraction regions and activities?

What are the impacts of financing strategies, such as divestment, on extractive industries in light of alternative sources of finance?

Theme 3: Just and equitable transitions and alternative development pathways for resource-rich regions

Examples of pertinent questions include:

- What would a just transition away from fossil fuel extraction look like in practice?
- Can the transition away from fossil fuel extraction be designed in a way that helps address existing forms of social and economic inequality?
- What can be learned from historical experiences with transition and economic diversification strategies?
- How can ethical, political, and geopolitical perspectives align in addressing equity dimensions of fossil fuel extraction and climate change?
- What are the economic, distributional and social implications of specific policies and measures to curb extraction?
- How can alternative development pathways for resource-rich developing countries be developed in an inclusive manner?
- Can competing economic and political interests be managed to enable rather than hinder a just, equitable, and effective transition?

Cross-cutting submissions

We also encourage submissions that cut across these themes and questions. Submissions could address topical, regional- or context-specific cases.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The organizers are undertaking efforts to secure travel support for participants who are based at institutions in developing countries. To the extent that travel funds are available, they will be disbursed on a merit basis. Acceptance of a paper for presentation does not guarantee travel support.

Additional information and answers to frequently asked questions can be found on the conference website: [http://fossilfuelsandclimate.org](http://fossilfuelsandclimate.org).