

Week 6 Assignment: Mitigation Wedges

due in section Monday May 3 or Tuesday May 4, 2010

Name: _____ ID: _____

TA: _____ Section date/time: _____

Sometimes cynics are quick to conclude that our greenhouse warming woes are hopeless. In a detailed analysis in the journal *Science*, Pacala and Socolow (2004) suggested that humanity already has the technology that we need to solve our climate problems. For discussion section this week, please read their article and the “stabilization wedge” game handout (see links on the assignment web site):

- Pacala, S. and R. Socolow, 2004. Stabilization Wedges: Solving the Climate Problem for the Next 50 Years with Current Technologies, *Science*, **305**, 968-972.
<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/305/5686/968>
- Hotinski, R., 2009. Stabilization wedges: A concept and game, Carbon Mitigation Initiative, Princeton University, http://cmi.princeton.edu/wedges/pdfs/teachers_guide.pdf

Complete the mitigation wedge exercise on p. 13 of the “Stabilization wedges: A concept and game” handout. (You do not need to do the cut-and-paste exercise on p. 14, unless you want to.) In a carefully worded paragraph of 200 words or less, discuss the choices that you made in developing your mitigation strategy. You may work with a friend to develop the mitigation strategy, but please write the paragraph on your own.

Please come to class prepared to discuss both your mitigation plan and some of the issues associated with the mitigation plan. Will a mitigation plan designed to stabilize carbon emissions be sufficient to solve our greenhouse warming problems? Are the objective of the mitigation plan achievable? Is an exercise such as this more useful as an educational tool, or does it have real value in helping to define environmental and energy policy?

Assignment web site: http://www-pord.ucsd.edu/~sgille/mae124/week6_hw.html