



Robert K. Kaufmann

Professor

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Educational Background

BS, Biology, Cornell University, 1979

MA, Economics, University of New Hampshire, 1984

PhD, Energy Management & Policy, University of Pennsylvania, 1988

Current Research

My research focuses on three areas; global climate change, world oil markets, and land-use changes. Research on global climate change includes topics such as are humans causing climate change and how will changes in climate affect natural ecosystems and human well-being? My research on world oil markets combines the geological, engineering, and economic determinants of oil supply, oil demand, and oil prices. Currently, I focus the degree to which large changes in oil prices are driven by market fundamental and speculation. Lastly, I also analyze the relationship between socioeconomic development and land use change. To do so, I develop ways of linking satellite images to ground based measures of economic activity and apply these techniques to economic development in the Pearl River Delta of China and soybean production in the Brazilian Amazon.

Beyond my academic interests, I am a founding partner of **First Fuel Software**. We combine a variety of mathematical techniques and engineering methods to conduct energy audits of commercial buildings without stepping foot inside the building. This greatly reduces the cost of audits and accelerates the rate at which conservation measures reduce energy use, carbon emissions, and save people money.

Courses Taught

- [GE 100 Environmental Change & Sustainability](#)
- [GE 250 The Fate of Nations: Climate, Resources, & Institutions](#)
- [GE 555 World Oil Markets](#)
- [GE 712 Regional Energy Models](#)

Links

- [Robert Kaufmann's CV](#)
- [Introduction to Environmental Science](#) (with [Cutler Cleveland](#)) – The world's first entirely web-based textbook on the subject
- [First Fuel](#)
- [Recent News](#)

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Recent News

[Lucy Hutyra and Conor Gately urge cities to show climate progress with data](#)[Jeffrey Geddes publishes on geostationary observations of nitrogen dioxide from space](#)[Nathan Phillips talks to Free Press about Massachusetts gas leaks](#)[Christine Regalla co-authors paper on earthquake surface rupture in Geophysical Research Letters](#)[Cutler Cleveland presents emissions findings to City of Boston](#)[PhD student Chi Chen co-authors article on 2015/16 ENSO event impacts to the carbon cycle](#)[E&E major Emma Quirk rows for BU](#)

Calendar

Monday, December 103:30 PM [E&E Seminar Series: Karin Bryan](#)

Wednesday, December 1212:00 AM [Last day of classes](#)

Wednesday, December 1211:00 AM [Earth & Environment Coffee Hour](#)

Wednesday, December 1212:30 PM [E&E Faculty Meeting](#)

Thursday, December 1312:00 AM [Study period](#)

Monday, December 1712:00 AM [Final exams begin](#)

Monday, December 1711:00 AM [Earth & Environment Coffee Hour](#)

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