

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The STEPS program is proud to announce the following awards and achievements for spring and summer of 2009.

- Abbas Ghandi was accepted into the 2009 U.K. Energy Research Center summer program.
- Bryan Jenkins was awarded the 2009 Johannes Linneborn Prize for outstanding contributions to the development of energy from biomass.
- Wayne Leighty received the 2009 Friends of ITS-Davis Outstanding Master's Thesis Award.
- David McCollum was named a 2009-10 Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Awards (ARCS) Scholar and was accepted into the 2009 Young Scientists Summer Program of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis.
- Geoff Morrison was awarded a 2009 Dwight David Eisenhower Graduate Fellowship.
- Dan Sperling received the 2009 Robert Zweig Public Education Award of the National Hydrogen Association.
- Yongling Sun received a Henry A. Jastro Graduate Research Scholarship Award.

STEPS POLICY INVOLVEMENT

Congressional Testimony: Dan Sperling on LCFS

Dan Sperling, co-director of the STEPS program, testified before the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, on April 24 about the adoption of a national Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS). Sperling noted the key features of the recently adopted California LCFS: it includes all transportation fuel alternatives, measures emissions on a lifecycle basis, harnesses market forces to stimulate innovation, creates a durable framework for orchestrating near- and long-term transition to low-carbon fuels, avoids the fuel du jour phenomenon, achieves both energy security and climate goals, reduces oil price volatility, and caps petroleum price increases.

Sperling made two major recommendations to the members of the committee: the RFS should be integrated into the national LCFS to bring lower carbon fuels to the market in the near term, and GHG reduction targets should be more aggressive. His testimony can be found at:

http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press_111/20090424/testimony_sperling.pdf

RESEARCH LEADER FOCUS



Cynthia Lin, PhD

Professor Cynthia Lin, STEPS Fossil Fuels track leader, is one of seven economists selected to serve on the California State Controller's Council of Economic

Advisors. As part of her work on the council, she has proposed an increase in the California gasoline tax. Dr. Lin is an assistant professor at UC Davis, with a joint appointment in agricultural and resource economics and environmental science and policy.

The breadth and depth of Lin's research makes her a key member of the STEPS team. Her interests include environmental and natural resource economics, energy economics, industrial organization, and applied microeconomics. With graduate student David Corderi, Lin is estimating the social rate of return on research and development in the energy industry. She is modeling the economically optimal dynamic oil production decisions for seven production units (fields) on Alaska's North Slope and simulating the impact of tax policy on production rate with STEPS graduate student Wayne Leighty. Lin is also analyzing air pollution externalities using spatial econometrics, the entry and exit decisions of ethanol plants with graduate student Karen Thome, and the supply and demand of hybrid vehicles with graduate student Joeri de Wit.

Lin earned her bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Public Policy (2000) and Ph.D. in Economics (2006) from Harvard University.