



SÉMINAIRE du CIRRELT SEMINAR

Adam Millard-Ball

McGill University, Montréal

“ CARBON TRADING: WHAT POTENTIAL FOR TRANSPORT? ”



Résumé / Abstract

Carbon trading programs, including cap-and-trade and carbon offsets are the centerpiece of efforts to reduce greenhouse gas reductions in many countries, provinces and states across the world. To date, however, transport has been virtually excluded from these trading programs. In this seminar, I provide empirical and simulation results to show why this has been the case. I first discuss the experience of transport in the Clean Development Mechanism - the largest carbon offset program to date. Using qualitative evidence, I explain why transport accounts for less than 1% of offset projects - partly because of the complexities in quantifying emission reductions from transport, but partly because these complexities have been glossed over in other sectors such as renewable energy. Second, I present simulation results showing the potential to "scale up" offsets from individual projects to the entire transport sector - so-called sectoral crediting. In the case of transport, the complexities of quantifying emission reductions is again likely to be a fatal flaw, and sectoral crediting is likely to lead to the generation of large volumes of spurious (non-additional) emission reductions. Thus, the case of transport sheds lights on fundamental problems with carbon offsets. Instead, alternative policy mechanisms such as grant programs may be a more robust way to bring about transport emission reductions in the developing world.

Note : Adam Millard-Ball est professeur adjoint au département de géographie de l'Université McGill. / Adam Millard-Ball is Assistant Professor at the Department of Geography of McGill University.
<http://geog.mcgill.ca/faculty/millard-ball/> et/and adam.millard-ball@mcgill.ca

LUNDI / MONDAY

**24 octobre 2011 /
October 24, 2011
14h00**

**Salle / Room 5441
Pavillon André-Aisenstadt
Université de Montréal**

Bienvenue à tous / Welcome to all

Responsable/Organizer : Bernard Gendron

*Information : Pierre Marchand
Responsable des communications du CIRRELT
pierre.marchand@cirrelt.ulaval.ca*

