Energy Policy and Climate / Environmental Science and Policy

Faculty Speaker Series

A presentation by Austin Brown

The climate opportunities and risks of automated vehicles

The presentation is followed by light refreshments and networking opportunities

Details:
Wednesday, October 14, 2015, 12-1:30pm
Johns Hopkins Washington, DC Center
1717 Massachusetts Ave. NW (room 204)

Dr. Austin Brown, Johns Hopkins University and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Automation in vehicles has begun to take automotive world by storm and capture the imagination of technologists everywhere. Automakers are already adding lane keeping, adaptive cruise control, automatic braking, and other limited automation features. Tech companies are jumping in to the deep end of the pool, developing vehicles that can drive themselves completely without human intervention. These automated future vehicles have the potential to dramatically reduce crashes and fatalities, improve traffic flow, and bring transportation services to demographics that need them. But could automation also be a secret weapon against climate change? An efficiently driven and routed, size-to-need matched automated vehicle could capture many energy benefits. However, it also carries energy risks, as increased travel speeds, better convenience, and more services could increase travel demand and energy use. Which will win out? Join Dr. Austin Brown for a discussion of the energy risks and opportunities as we try to navigate this complex and novel topic.

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