Dr. John Byrne  
“Climate Challenge: Acting at the Engineering-Economy-Policy Interface”

Abstract
The prospect of climate change commands the attention of three key institutions that steer our social direction: engineering, the economy, and policy. Even as we struggle globally to reverse one of the deepest economic recessions in a century, responding to climate change remains atop the policy agenda. Indeed, some argue for a merger of these key challenges by summoning engineering, technology, and policy to help us rebuild the economic system on a “green” platform. What must we do to address the risk of climate change? What technology options shall we pursue, and what are the challenges for engineering to understand and assist efforts to decarbonize social activity? Will the currently preferred technological, policy and economic options work? Dr. Byrne will offer his thoughts on these and related questions.

Biography
John Byrne is Director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy (CEEP) and Distinguished Professor of Public Policy at the University of Delaware. He has contributed to Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) since 1992 and shares the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, which was awarded jointly to former U.S. Vice President Albert Gore, Jr. and researchers of the IPCC. His recent books include Energy and Environment: The Policy Challenge, which addresses the global warming debate, and Transforming Power, which explores the prospects for, and social and environmental (especially carbon) implications of, significant changes in the world energy system. He has published 17 books and over 150 research articles.