

Session: Global climate change and the IPCC

Title: Focusing on the Footprint of Fossil Fuel

Mathis WACKERNAGEL

Global Footprint Network, 1050 Warfield Ave, Oakland, CA 94610-1612, USA

Do economies self-correct or self-destruct when operating as if resources are limitless? Can everyone on this planet live like a Chinese? A Costa Rican? A Canadian? The Ecological Footprint allows us to explore these questions, in support of making development sustainable. Essentially, the Ecological Footprint translates resource flows into bioproductive areas necessary to support those flows – all building on Earth science insights as generated and represented by IGBP and its allies. In other words, it moves this thinking into the realm of “asset management”: how much nature do we use? How much do we have? By making such resource accounts available, the Footprint builds a bridge between scientific understanding of Earth systems and policy application. This presentation will focus on how this analysis has been used in the context of climate change.