

# C A T E H I G H T

Principal, Rocky Mountain Institute

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## **BIOGRAPHY**

Cate Hight is a Principal at Rocky Mountain Institute, where she leads the institute's efforts to reduce methane emissions from the global oil and gas industry. Before joining RMI, Cate spent ten years at the US Environmental Protection Agency where she managed the oil and gas program of the Global Methane Initiative, a public-private partnership of 45 countries and private-sector actors dedicated to methane abatement, recovery, and use. Cate also played lead roles in the development of important greenhouse gas regulations including the Clean Power Plan, the Clean Energy Incentive Program and the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program. She co-authored the annual US Inventory of GHG Emissions and Sinks, and led the agency's work on carbon market development, including the market-based mechanisms in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Prior to EPA, Cate worked for the Institute for Climate Economics in Paris, France, where she co-authored Pricing Carbon, a book assessing the performance of the European Union Emission Trading Scheme for greenhouse gases. She has also held positions at the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions and as committee staff in the US House of Representatives.

## **EXPERIENCE Rocky Mountain Institute, Washington, DC**

**Principal, Industry Program, 04/19 – present**

- Lead RMI's efforts to reduce methane emissions from the global oil and gas industry.
- Work with methane data scientists, oil and gas operators, regulators, purchasers and consumers to establish market-based mechanisms that will improve the industry's climate performance in the global transition to renewable energy.

**U.S. EPA, Office of Air and Radiation, Washington, DC**

**Environmental Protection Specialist, 07/09 – 04/19**

- **Program Manager, Global Methane Initiative**
  - Led the Global Methane Initiative oil and gas program, a public-private partnership of 45 countries and private-sector actors dedicated to the abatement, recovery, and use of methane as a valuable clean energy source.
  - Provided technical support to companies and countries seeking to quantify and mitigate methane emissions from the oil and gas value chain.
  - Represented the US government as part of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Group of Experts on Gas as well as the Climate and Clean Air Coalition's Oil and Gas Methane Partnership.
- **Team Lead, Carbon Market Policy**
  - Coordinated EPA technical staff with climate policy and analysis expertise to develop policy positions aimed at reducing emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) through market-based instruments.
  - Advised EPA leadership on effective policy positions and represented the US in international negotiations on climate policy, including at UN meetings on the Paris Agreement (PA) and the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA).
  - Analyzed and interpreted carbon market policy positions of other countries and well as those of sub-national jurisdictions, including the US states. Advised states on the potential intersection of state and federal GHG reduction policies.

- **Team Lead, Clean Power Plan**
  - Led a team of technical staff to develop two components of the 2016 Clean Power Plan (CPP) to reduce emissions US from power plants:
    - State Plans: set the requirements for how states must achieve the required carbon dioxide reductions.
    - Clean Energy Incentive Program: provides an opportunity for states to count early actions on renewable energy and energy efficiency toward their CPP obligations.
  - Proposed policy options to senior EPA management, drafted and finalized preamble and regulatory text in direct consultation with senior EPA leadership, including the EPA Administrator.
  - Represented EPA in stakeholder meetings to solicit feedback on program design. Conducted public hearings and press briefings, delivered presentations on the CPP and the Clean Air Act to a wide variety of groups, including federal, state and local officials, industry representatives, advocacy organizations and members of the international community.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Quantification Expert and International Advisor**
  - Co-authored the US Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks, the annual accounting of GHG emissions from all sectors of the US economy. Collected, analyzed and interpreted data to identify GHG reduction opportunities.
  - Led EPA's efforts to build the capacity of Latin American countries to improve the quality of their national GHG inventories for land use emissions.
  - Provided regulatory development and implementation support to EPA's GHG Reporting Program, which collects emissions data from approximately 9,000 facilities in the US.
  - Contributing editor for EPA's Framework for Assessing Biogenic Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) Emissions from Stationary Sources. Ensured the clear communication of scientific information assessing the extent to which the production, processing, and use of biogenic material at stationary sources results in a net atmospheric contribution of biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- **Special Assistant to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy**
  - Coordinated a series of "listening sessions" between the Administrator, environmental justice and advocacy organizations, states, tribes, and industrial stakeholders to inform the development of regulations to limit GHG emissions from power plants and petroleum refineries.
  - Supported the Administrator in meetings with diverse groups of stakeholders; prepared talking points, speeches, and detailed meeting reports.

**Institute for Climate Economics (I4CE, formerly Mission Climat) Paris, FRANCE**  
**Research Associate, 12/07 – 03/09**

- Contributing author of *Pricing Carbon*, a book assessing the performance of the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) for greenhouse gases. Authored a chapter on linking the EU ETS to trading programs in other nations. Edited technical contributions from over ten economists to make the information accessible to the general public.
- Delivered presentations on US climate policy to international audiences with non-technical backgrounds, in both French and English.

**U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,  
Washington, DC**

**Environmental Policy Fellow, 06/07 – 09/07**

**Pew Center on Global Climate Change (now C2ES), Arlington, VA**

**Congressional Affairs Fellow, 08/06 – 09/06**

**EDUCATION University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy Studies, Chicago, IL**

Master of Public Policy Studies with Honors, June 2007

- Thesis: *The Environment Goes to Market: Lessons from Thirty Years of Emissions Trading*. The Chicago Policy Review, Volume 12, No. 1 (Summer 2008): 16-31.

**Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA.**

B.A. in Romance Languages (French and Spanish), *magna cum laude*, 2000.

**PUBLICATIONS**

- *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks*. (Contributing Author). US EPA, Apr. 2018.
- *Gridded National Inventory of U.S. Methane Emissions*. Maasakkers, Joannes D. et al. Environmental Science and Technology, Volume 50 (2016): 13123–13133.
- *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks*. (Contributing Author). US EPA, Apr. 2017.
- *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks*. (Contributing Author). US EPA, Apr. 2016.
- *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks*. (Contributing Author). US EPA, Apr. 2015.
- *Framework for Assessing Biogenic Carbon Dioxide for Stationary Sources*. (Contributing Editor). US EPA, Nov. 2014.
- *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks*. (Contributing Author). US EPA, Apr. 2014.
- *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks*. (Contributing Author). US EPA, Apr. 2013.
- Pricing Carbon: The European Union Emissions Trading Scheme. (Contributing Author). Convery, Ellerman, and de Perthuis, eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- *What US Policymakers Can Learn from Europe about Cap-and-Trade*. Hight, Cate. Guest commentary for Carbon Market North America. Point Carbon, 21 Nov. 2008.
- *The European Carbon Market in Action: Lessons from the First Trading Period, Interim Report*. (Contributing author). Convery, Ellerman, and de Perthuis, eds. APREC, Mar. 2008.
- *Change is in the Air: The Foundations of the Coming American Carbon Market*. Hight, Cate and Gustavo Silva-Chavez. Paris, France: Mission Climat of the Caisse des Dépôts, Oct. 2008.
- *Understanding How US Environmental Laws Are Made*. In ClimatSphere No. 12. Paris, France: Mission Climat of the Caisse des Dépôts, 1st quarter 2008.
- *The Environment Goes to Market: Lessons from Thirty Years of Emissions Trading*. The Chicago Policy Review, Volume 12, No. 1 (Summer 2008): 16-31.