



Invitation to Attend the CSLS Seminar Series on Living Standards

A Green Economy: What is it and how to get there?

Stewart Elgie

4:00-5:30 PM

Monday, March 7, 2011

Karsh Room, Rideau Club

99 Bank Street, 15th floor

Ottawa, Ontario

(please note that the Rideau Club dress code requires men to wear a jacket)

To attend, please RSVP by March 4, 2011 to andrew.sharpe@csls.ca.

“Building a Green Economy” is an oft-heard buzz word these days. The UNEP and OECD both plan to issue reports on the topic this spring. But there is a profound lack of clarity about what a green economy is, let alone how to get there. In part that is because neither question is easy to answer.

This talk will attempt to shed light on these two critical questions. It will first delve into what a ‘green economy’ can mean – how do we measure progress towards it? In doing so, it will look at existing national level indicators for environmental and economic performance, and how they might be blended to measure *sustainable competitiveness*. It will then look at some of the key policy approaches needed to move towards a greener, stronger economy (or, greater natural capital productivity), drawing on evidence and examples where available. It will focus particularly on the role of market-based instruments, examining both their environmental and economic effectiveness. It also will examine other types of policy approaches as part of a package for shifting to a sustainable, prosperous economy. And it will discuss some of the political obstacles to making these policy shifts, and how they might be addressed.

Stewart Elgie is a Common Law professor at the University of Ottawa specializing in environmental law and economics. He also serves as associate director of the University’s Environment Institute. He received his Master’s of Law from Harvard in 1988, and is currently completing a doctorate at Yale, focusing on environmental law and economics (climate change). Prof. Elgie is also the founder and chair of Sustainable Prosperity, a major research-policy initiative focused on building the knowledge foundation for a greener, stronger economy.