

Macalester students hosting Power Dialog – A discussion with Minnesota policy makers about the implementation of the Clean Power Plan

St. Paul, Minn. – Macalester’s student sustainability organization, MacCares, is hosting a panel discussion with Minnesota climate science and policy leaders about the implementation of the [Clean Power Plan](http://www.conservationsminnesota.org/cpp/?gclid=CMDt5a7YoMsCFQiJaQod8_IGEg) (http://www.conservationsminnesota.org/cpp/?gclid=CMDt5a7YoMsCFQiJaQod8_IGEg) for a national and local movement called “Power Dialog.” The event is at Macalester College, at 5 p.m., Monday, April 4, in Hill Ballroom, Kagin Commons.

The Clean Power Plan will create an opportunity for Minnesota to work alongside the 49 other states on a single action to reduce mercury in water, improve lives, cut pollution, and protect the Minnesota way of life. This action could also spur the growth of clean energy jobs in the state.

The “Power Dialog,” coordinated by the [Bard Center for Environmental Policy](http://www.bard.edu/cep/powerdialog/organize/) (<http://www.bard.edu/cep/powerdialog/organize/>), is a chance for students across the U.S and in Minnesota to engage in a face-to-face dialog with their state-level regulators in a collaborative, non-confrontational way.

The topic? Implementing the Clean Power Plan, requiring 32% cuts in global warming pollution by 2030. The dialogue and discussion: “What are the policies?,” “Why do we need these policies?,” and “What sort of impact will these policies have on the environment, the economy and our lives?”

How will it work? Students and faculty studying subjects related to environmental policy will travel to Macalester College in St. Paul to participate in the discussion.

Once at Macalester, they will have the opportunity to hear from: **John Stine**, Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; **Beverley Heydinger**, Chair of the Public Utilities Commission; **Bill Grant**, Deputy Commissioner of Energy and Telecommunications for the Minnesota Department of Commerce; **Pat Garofalo**, State Representative; **Melissa Hortman**, State Representative; **John Marty**, State Senator; and **J. Drake Hamilton**, Science Policy Director of Fresh Energy.

This event will allow students to enhance their classroom experience by participating in an urgent policy challenge. This is a unique opportunity for students to engage with policy makers and their peers from across the state with similar interests toward imagining energy and climate futures.

Several Minnesota schools are scheduled to attend, including: Augsburg, St. Olaf, St. Thomas, the University of Minnesota, Duluth, and The School of Environmental Studies (SES).

Sponsored by MacCares: Ellie Carter ‘18, Jack McCarthy ‘18, Becca Krasky ‘19, Ruby Kinnamon ‘19, Maddie Schmitt ‘19, Ruotong Wang ‘19, and Martin Moore ‘18.

Macalester College, founded in 1874, is a national liberal arts college with a full-time enrollment of 2,138 students. Macalester is nationally recognized for its long-standing commitment to academic excellence, internationalism, multiculturalism, and civic engagement. Learn more at [maclester.edu](http://www.maclester.edu/) (<http://www.maclester.edu/>).

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