Access to Experts

Franz Litz , Senior Fellow , World Resources Institute

Franz Litz leads the World Resources Institute's state and regional climate change efforts and has considerable experience in the design of cap-and-trade programs. He has played an active role in advising the major regional climate change initiatives in the United States and Canada, as well as a number of individual states. Franz is also engaged in the Institute's work to inform federal action on climate change, including applying the federal Clean Air Act to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Before joining the World Resources Institute, Franz served four years as the Climate Change Policy Coordinator for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. In that role, Franz served as New York's principal representative to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), an effort by 10 Northeast states to implement the first flexible, market-based cap-and-trade program for carbon dioxide in the United States. During the first 3-and-a-half years of the RGGI effort, Franz chaired the group of state staff representatives conducting the RGGI discussions. As chair, Franz was instrumental in bringing the states to consensus around RGGI decisions. He facilitated the multi-state RGGI staff meetings, served as the principal author of the Memorandum of Understanding that was executed by the region's governors in December 2005, and was a principal drafter of the RGGI model rule–the set of rules for the RGGI carbon trading program.

Franz served on the California Environmental Protection Agency's Market Advisory Committee that issued recommendations on how to implement California's landmark Global Warming Solutions Act (a.k.a. "AB32"). Prior to entering public service in New York in 2001, Franz practiced environmental law with the large Boston law firm Brown Rudnick.

Contact Carol Courter, Manager, Corporate Communications, +1 212 339 0232, courter@conferenceboard.org

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