

Washington Square Citizens League

Speaker Series

7:00-8:15 pm

Monday, May 19, 2025

Climate Science and Policy Update

Frank Niepold III, guest speaker

Frank Niepold, moderator

In the four months since Donald Trump began his second term as President, he has already radically altered many of the long-standing practices in American politics, both at home and abroad. This Speaker Event will focus on the Trump Administration's impact on America's response to climate change.

From what we have seen thus far, the 47th President's strategy is to:

- move rapidly to reverse the efforts taken by previous Administrations over the last 20+ years to improve our understanding of the threat posed by changes to Earth's climate;
- thwart the scientific community's research into climate science;
- dismantle the organizations within the US Government which were created by Congress to address climate change;
- eliminate US Government funding for climate science research.

To help us understand our government's response to global climate change, we are fortunate tonight to have a speaker who has been on the front line of this issue for over 10 years. From his current position in the **Climate Program Office** of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA), Frank Niepold III (the moderator's son) is currently the Climate Education Program Manager & Coordinator and the Climate Ready Workforce Program Manager.

NOAA's Climate Education Program was created to advance the American public's **climate literacy** in partnership with formal and informal educators in universities and science centers throughout the nation. The Program seeks to (i) incorporate climate data, tools, and information products into classrooms and free-choice learning institutions; (ii) equip educators with well-vetted, standards-based climate and energy lessons, multimedia resources, and visualizations and professional development opportunities; and (iii) establish benchmarks of excellence in climate literacy to help guide educators.

To prepare for our Speaker Event on May 19, Mr. Niepold suggests that WSCL participants browse through the attached first chapter of the **Fifth National Climate Assessment**. This 47-page chapter, written in 2023, gives a broad introduction to the issues involved in

climate change, highlights some of the current and future risks created by climate change, and points to some of the mitigation strategies available to us.

(NOTE: This WSCL event will be conducted as dialogue between the moderator and the speaker. It will be an open discussion, in which audience members will have an opportunity to ask their own questions of Mr. Niepold.

Mr. Niepold currently works at NOAA's Climate Program Office although many programs and employees have been terminated. He committed to participate in the scheduled May 19 event to update us on the current status of NOAA's mission, the Administration's climate policy and more generally, the state of climate science.)

Attachment:

FIFTH NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT,

Chapter 1. Overview: Understanding Risks, Impacts, and Responses