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Presents:

## Should the United States Make Unilateral Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions?

Evaluating Cass Sunstein's Argument about a Pressing  
Question of Global Justice and Domestic Policy

Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>  
Liberal Arts Building, Room 114  
3:45 – 5:00 pm

In a recent op-ed Cass Sunstein argues that the USA should make substantial unilateral greenhouse gas emissions reductions even if many other high-emitting nations such as China are unwilling to make analogous reductions. This issue of unilateral national reductions is of obvious importance to public policy. It also turns on the philosophical issue of how and why nations should take the interests of non-citizens into account in domestic policy-making. I evaluate Sunstein's arguments, and I identify a number of ways in which the issue is more complicated than his arguments suggest. Among other things, I note that Sunstein's main conclusion is ambiguous along two dimensions, and that once this ambiguity is sorted out it becomes clear that while his arguments do show that the USA should make some non-trivial unilateral reductions, the magnitude of those reductions is much smaller than his rhetoric suggests. I close with some general thoughts and questions about ethics and collective action.

**For more information, please contact the Philosophy Department at 523-2648.**