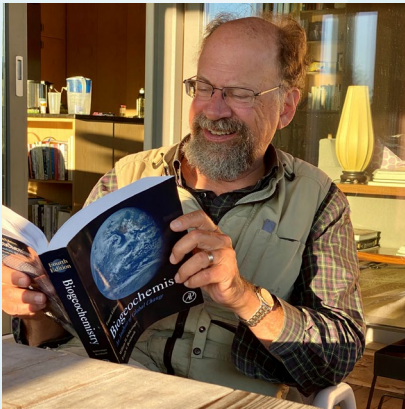


iFAST: The International Forum on Advanced Environmental Sciences and Technology

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8:00 a.m. CST; 9:00 a.m. EST; 2:00 p.m. GMT; 10:00 p.m. Beijing

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020



William Schlesinger
Cary Institute

<https://www.caryinstitute.org/science/our-scientists/dr-william-h-schlesinger>

William H. Schlesinger is the James B. Duke Emeritus Professor of Biogeochemistry at Duke University, where he also served as dean of the Nicholas School of the Environment. He is one of the leading earth and environmental scientists, melding the interdisciplinary field of biogeochemistry from biochemistry and geochemistry. His approach and philosophy are detailed in his textbook, *Biogeochemistry* (4th edition with Emily S. Bernhardt in 2020). He advocates scientists actively contributing to the public debate on environmental policy in a new field that he calls “Translational Ecology.” Schlesinger is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and a fellow in the Ecological Society of America, the Soil Science Society of America and the American Geophysical Union.

Carbon Sequestration in Soils to Mitigate Global Climate Change

Increasing the storage of carbon in the organic matter of agricultural soils has been widely touted as a potential contribution to the mitigation of global climate change. However, the means to do so should be carefully examined with full life-cycle analysis. Under such scrutiny, many of the proposed practices—increased use of fertilizer, irrigation, manuring, and spreading rock silicates—increase the emission of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere during implementation. Indeed, if we were to store carbon in soils equivalent to the emissions from fossil fuel combustion, this policy would require increasing the use of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizer several fold in excess of current usage.



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