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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 22, 2009

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LEADING GEOENGINEERING EXPERT TO DISCUSS CLIMATE CHANGE

MISSOULA —

David Keith, a leading international expert on global climate engineering, climate change and alternative energy, will present “Should We Engineer the Climate?” Thursday, Nov. 5, at The University of Montana.

The presentation begins at 7 p.m. in Gallagher Business Building Room 123 and is free and open to the public.

Keith directs the Energy and Environmental Systems Group of the Institute for Sustainable Energy, Environment and Economy at the University of Calgary. His research investigates the unprecedented, technological manipulation of the Earth’s natural systems.

With the slow pace of international climate change negotiations, some leading climate scientists are starting to contemplate schemes to engineer the Earth’s climate to forestall the worst effects of global warming. Keith will discuss prominent geoengineering schemes, their risks and their ethical implications.

“If the climate’s sensitivity is at the high end of current estimates, it may be too late to avert dramatic consequences for human societies or natural ecosystems even if we could cut emissions to zero in a few decades,” Keith said. “Geoengineering offers a fast means of managing climate risk, but entails a host of new risks.”

The audience is invited to ask questions and participate in discussions after Keith's presentation. For more information, call UM's Center for Ethics at 406-243-6605.

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