

David Keith

Position/Department/Division/Institution/Organization

Professor of Applied Physics and Professor of Public Policy, Harvard University;
Founder, Carbon Engineering

Country

United States

Career history

[David Keith](#) has worked near the interface between climate science, energy technology, and public policy since '91. He took first prize in Canada's national physics prize exam, won MIT's prize for excellence in experimental physics, and was one of TIME Magazine's [Heroes of the Environment](#). David is Professor of Applied Physics at the [Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences](#) and Professor of Public Policy at the [Harvard Kennedy School](#), and founder of [Carbon Engineering](#), a Canadian company developing technology to capture CO₂ from ambient air to make carbon-neutral hydrocarbon fuels. Best known for his work on the science, technology, and public policy of solar geoengineering, David led the development of [Harvard's Solar Geoengineering Research Program](#), a Harvard-wide interfaculty research initiative. His work has ranged from the climatic impacts of large-scale wind power to an early critique of the prospects for hydrogen fuel. David's hardware engineering work includes the first interferometer for atoms, a high-accuracy infrared spectrometer for NASA's ER-2, the development of Carbon Engineering's air contactor and overall process design, and the development of a stratospheric propelled balloon experiment for solar geoengineering. David teaches science and technology policy, climate science, and solar geoengineering. He has reached students worldwide with an [edX energy course](#). David is author of >200 academic publications with total citation count of >13,000. He has written for the public in op-eds and [A Case for Climate Engineering](#). David splits his time between Cambridge, Massachusetts and Canmore, Alberta.

Awards/Publications

Awards

Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee Medal, 2013.

Time Magazine, Hero of the Environment, 2009.

The City of Calgary Award for Environmental Achievement by an Individual, 2008.

Canadian Geographical Society, Environmental Scientist of the Year, 2006.

MIT Martin Deutsch Prize, MIT's biennial prize for excellence in experimental physics, 1989.

Canadian Association of Physicists, National University Prize Exam, First prize, 1986.

Publications:

Keith, D. (2013). A Case for Climate Engineering, A Boston Review Book, MIT Press.

(For the list of David's publications and op-eds, please visit:

<https://keith.seas.harvard.edu/keith-group-publications.>)

Areas of expertise

Climate change (solar geoengineering, carbon capture) and public policy