



Seminar Series

Fall 2024

Hybrid

Alex 265

Thursday,

Nov 28

12 noon

Dr. Rebecca Saari

Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Waterloo

Future Air Pollution Alerts under Climate Change:
Implications for Health and Health Equity



Light refreshments
will be served

Air pollution is the leading environmental risk factor for early death. Alerts guide people to stay indoors when air quality is poor. **Climate change can worsen air quality over this century.** Our work finds that this creates conditions for rising air quality alerts, with alerts quadrupling on average in the United States by the end of this century. **Rising alerts disproportionately affect racialized, unhoused, and poorly housed populations.** Relying on people to protect themselves likely offers minimal benefits compared to reducing emissions; however, boosting adaptation can offer additional health benefits even under stringent climate policy. New policy could, for example, compensate people for moving indoors, and improve access to clean indoor air. This talk presents this work, including its implications for how to equitably protect health under climate change, presenting levers for action against an increasing, unfair burden of air pollution

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