

Cost and carbon in electricity planning
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Several billion dollars are spent each year on new power plants to accommodate the retirement of old plants and the growth in electricity demand. State electricity planners direct much of that money. In this seminar I investigate the factors that planners along the Atlantic Coast will consider when choosing one generation technology over another, especially in light of the relative strengths of carbon-free technologies. Those factors include the relative costs, the geographical characteristics, and the costs and benefits of siting generation locally. I conclude with some suggestions for how small policy changes could make a large impact on the favorability of certain carbon-free technologies.