SEMINAR TITLE

“Achieving Sustainability: An engineers approach to strategic sustainable development”

PROGRAM

2:50 - 4:00 p.m. Lecture
3:45 - 4:00 p.m. Q&A and Discussion

SEMINAR SPEAKER

Ben R. Kneppers, MS
Sustainability Practitioner

ABSTRACT

The Earth's capacity to provide life supporting resources, such as clean air, clean water and topsoil is systematically decreasing. At the same time, our demands on these resources are rising because of an increasingly more affluent population. Awareness of this dilemma has been growing for some time, but these fundamental issues are far too complex and global to approach on a ground level. The purpose of this seminar is to present a generally applicable framework based upon comprehensible, scientific principles that can serve as a compass to guide society toward a sustainable future. The objective is to then begin to consider the role of engineers in achieving this vision. This presentation will include a brief introduction to some highly effective tools and concepts such as life cycle assessment (LCA) and sustainable product design. The seminar will conclude with an example approach for Sweden's energy sector.

BIOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Ben R. Kneppers is a recent graduate with a Masters degree in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability from the Blekinge Institute of Technology in Karlskrona, Sweden. Prior to his Masters, Ben received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering at Northeastern. Ben has published his Masters thesis on a principle-based decision making tool for Sweden's energy sector. The project has gained recognition and has recently been awarded the Sparbankstiftelsen Kronan Stipendium which honors creative and useful work for the betterment of society. Ben is a sustainability consultant in the greater Boston area covering sustainable building materials and renewable energy resource assessments. Ben will soon continue his career in New Zealand where he has taken a consultant position with Beacon Pathways Ltd; performing research on Energy and Resource Management.