

# Climate Change: The Power of Taxes

## Professor Milne

### Reading Assignment for First Class

Monday, August 24, 2020

Prior to class, please read:

*Handbook of Research on Environmental Taxation*  
pp. 15-29

*Course Pack*  
pp. 1-60

*A note about the reading:*

The pages in the *Handbook of Research on Environmental Taxation* will introduce you to the basic principles and vocabulary of environmental taxation. The reading in the *Course Pack* will help set the context for the seminar by addressing several topics:

1. *The problem.* The global warming problem and one roadmap for US action on climate change to illustrate the range of challenges and possible policies. (pp. 1-22).
2. *The international context.* The international goal set by the 2015 Paris Agreement, from which President Trump has withdrawn the US (pp. 23-29).
3. *US greenhouse gas emissions.* The sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the US (pp. 30-54). These pages from the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Inventory contain a substantial amount of data. Focus on the types greenhouse gas emissions in the US, their sources, and their relative contributions to total emissions. The EPA Inventory will serve as a resource throughout the semester.
4. *The tax context.* An introduction to federal excise taxes and the federal tax structure (pp. 59-71). Think about how federal tax revenue is allocate among different types of taxes.