

The latest issue of *Science* has two key papers on climate policy. First, Tim Searchinger, [Dan Kammen](#) (a faculty member at [ERG](#)), and others argue that an accounting exemption for bioenergy that appears in the Kyoto Protocol, the European carbon trading scheme and draft legislation on Capitol Hill treats all biofuels as “carbon neutral” even if the process of making them results in large carbon emissions. The land use issues regarding biofuels are actually huge and poorly understood, which argues for caution in relying on them too heavily as a way to reduce carbon.

The second *Science* paper is by ERG graduate student [Stacy Jackson](#). (ERG is the Berkeley Energy and Resource Group, an interdisciplinary teaching and research program that pioneered ideas such as renewable portfolio standards.) Stacy also has a Legal Planet connection — she contributed some postings to this blog about the climate science meeting in Copenhagen last spring. [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)

Stacy’s paper points out that quick, cheap reductions in emissions can be obtained from non-CO<sub>2</sub> substances such as black carbon. This can buy time to implement CO<sub>2</sub> reductions in a more cost-effective way.