A changing legislative and regulatory climate, emerging carbon markets around the world, and growing economic and consumer demands are converging to create significant new challenges and opportunities for US businesses pertaining to carbon management, and elevate its profile on the corporate agenda. The Price College of Business Energy Solutions Center is organizing this special panel discussion to highlight the business issues and opportunities associated with carbon management and discuss strategies for moving forward.

The program will begin with presentations by our panelists: Michael Crist, Founder of Tatanka Resources; Thomas Flaherty, Senior Partner, Booz & Co.; Larry Grillot, Dean of OU’s Mewbourne College of Earth & Energy; and Jean Leger, Vice President of OG&E Utility Operations, who will provide their perspectives on carbon management. We will conclude with a round-table discussion and Q&A session moderated by Chitru Fernando, Academic Director of the Energy Solutions Center. Participants will be provided ample opportunities to explore issues of specific interest with our expert panel.

RSVP: Cathy Little
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Energy Solutions Center
University of Oklahoma
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Norman, OK 73019
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Michael Crist is founder and managing member of Tatanka Resources, a Missouri-based Carbon Management company. He has worked in alternate energy since the early 1980’s and handled over $300 million in project financing for alternate energy. He also assists clients in conventional bank and bond financing of energy projects and managing issues related to state and federal policy. He currently works in carbon risk management, carbon credit trading and project related carbon trading services, forestry and grassland aggregation focused especially on developing processes that allow owners of smaller tracts to generate high value carbon credits, and energy conservation and emissions reduction programs. He holds a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Iowa.

Thomas Flaherty is a Dallas-based Senior Partner with Booz & Company who works with clients in the electric and gas sectors. Over the past 30 years, he has directed numerous engagements that draw upon his expertise in strategy development, corporate growth and M&A, financial management and capital allocation, organizational restructuring, performance improvement and regulatory strategy and assistance. He has been involved in the majority of the power and gas mergers in the United States and several cross-border transactions. He has worked with a number of private equity participants on the assessment, modeling, and operations transfer of acquisitions related to generation, transmission, and distribution assets or segments. He is a frequent speaker at industry conferences on topics such as enterprise strategy, M&A strategy, and industry evolution and has recently published articles on business model innovation, M&A, strategic flexibility, and financial management. He holds a BBA in Accounting from the University of Oklahoma.

1:30-4:30pm (Price Hall Room 3040)

Welcoming remarks - Kenneth Evans, Dean of the Price College
Introduction - Chitru Fernando
Perspectives on carbon management:
Larry Grillot
Jean Leger
Thomas Flaherty
Michael Crist
Break: 3:00-3:15pm
Panel Discussion and Q&A
Concluding remarks

Reception in Clary Lounge
Price Hall 1st Floor

Chitru Fernando (moderator) is the John and Donnie Brock Chair in Energy Economics and Policy, Associate Professor of Finance and Academic Director of the Energy Solutions Center. His interests are in corporate finance, energy, commodity and environmental finance and economics, corporate risk management, and liquidity risk in financial markets. He has published in the leading academic journals and received multiple research awards and grants. He has lectured extensively on energy finance, corporate and international finance, and corporate risk management topics and served as a consultant and litigation expert on energy and commodity market issues pertaining to risk management, contracts, pricing, valuation and regulation. He received the Ph.D. in Finance (Wharton School) and M.A. in Applied Economics from the University of Pennsylvania; M.S. in Management (Sloan School) and M.S. in Technology and Policy from MIT; and the B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering with First Class Honors from the University of Sri Lanka.

Larry Grillot is Dean, Lester A. Day Family Chair and Director, Sarkeys Energy Center at OU’s Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy. Dr. Grillot is a geophysicist with 30 years of technical and management experience acquired at Phillips Petroleum Co., before he was named the first dean of the newly formed Mewbourne College in March 2006. His assignments at Phillips took him to Canada, Europe and Africa and his positions there included manager of E&P Technology and Services, Upstream Technology and Project Development, manager of International Exploration and Worldwide Exploration and president and region manager for Phillips Petroleum Canada Ltd. He earned his bachelor of science degree in physics from Mississippi State University and his master’s and doctoral degrees in geological sciences from Brown University.

Jean Leger, Jr. has worked for 27 years in the energy industry of which 17 years have been with OGE Energy Corp. He is currently Vice President of OG&E Utility Operations at OGE Energy Corp. Prior to this he served as Vice President of Operations for OGE’s pipeline company, Enogex LLC. He is a Board member of the national Gas Processors Association where he currently serves as Vice President. He is a member of OIPA, Energy Explorers and AIChE. He has served in various capacities on numerous other professional boards and councils, to include Chairperson of the Oklahoma Marginal Well Commission Advisory Council and President of Midcontinent GPA. Prior to joining OGE, he served in various positions with Sun Refining and Marketing and DuPont/Conoco. He holds a MS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Arkansas.