



**Linda Powers Tomasso, MSFS, ALM**

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Linda Powers Tomasso is an environmental policy researcher at the Center for Health and the Global Environment, where she applies her distinct research areas on sustainable land use in urban expansion and standards for incorporating healthy materials into rapidly growing built environments to southeastern China. Linda's research on loss of carbon sinks and forestlands in the State of Connecticut won the 2014 Dean's Award for Best Thesis in Sustainability and Environmental Management at the Harvard Extension School and was recently published in the *Journal of Environmental Protection*. The methodology she applied in her work to estimate lost carbon sequestration from land use change will steer the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's adoption of a land use protocol for future state-level Greenhouse Gas Inventories. She has consulted on sustainable international development projects for the development banks and international NGOs, notably in the Andean countries and China. Linda holds Masters degrees from Harvard Extension School's Program in Sustainability and Environmental Management and the Georgetown School of Foreign Service. Trained in international policy, she worked as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer with postings in Costa Rica, Rome, Milan, and the U.S. State Department's Central American Desk. Linda is LEED GA and speaks fluent Italian, Spanish, with conversational Polish and French.

ABSTRACT

Greenhouse inventories (GHG) estimate levels of emissions which are scientifically understood as the human-induced basis for climate change. GHG inventories ideally resemble balance sheets indicating both emissions sources and carbon "sinks" that remove atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> via long-term carbon storage in vegetation cover, soils, and forests. Preservation of carbon sinks often is from GHG reduction efforts inventories, in part due to insufficient accounting methods, leading policy-makers to undervalue forests and vegetative land cover as agents of regional climate stabilization. China's rapid urban development over the past decades has come at some loss of these beneficial carbon sinks. This webinar examines at one methodology using GIS analysis to quantify and measure terrestrial carbon sequestration in Zhejiang Province of the past decade—an accounting conditioned both by intense urbanization patterns in coastal regions as well as the Chinese Government's decisive afforestation program implemented over the same period. Ms. Tomasso's

rigorous application of this carbon accounting methodology and the surprisingly robust results it yielded in terms of carbon sequestration potential in the U.S. State of Connecticut introduces the Zhejiang case study. This webinar will leave audiences to ask: should forest preservation take on greater significance as a cost-effective public policy lever to help slow emissions rises at the base of climate change?