



Supporting New Scholars of Environmental Investing

Angelo A. Calvello, PhD

Editor in Chief

In 2009, a group of like-minded individuals discussed the challenges and necessity of engaging the academic, investment, and governmental communities in a rigorous discussion of the various topics related to environmental investing. The result of our concern was the creation of the *Journal of Environmental Investing (JEI)*. As we inaugurated the *JEI*, we also discovered a critical need to encourage new scholars to participate in this discussion. With the support of the *JEI*'s sponsor, BE Bio Energy Group, and a small but enthusiastic group of cohorts, I was able to establish a not-for-profit organization, the Journal of Environmental Investing Scholarship Program (JEI SP). I also was able to solicit the support of some key individuals to join the JEI SP board: Christine Chan, PhD, founder, Chan EC; Matthew J. Kiernan, PhD, founder and chief executive of Inflection Point Capital Management; Alex Rau, PhD, a founding partner of Climate Wedge Ltd; Steven Timmons, executive vice president human resources at ValueOptions Inc.; and Katherine Burstein, an associate with Mercer's Responsible Investment team in New York. Together, we created the JEI SP. Its goal is to encourage and support young scholars in developing and deploying market-based solutions to our most pressing environmental problems through rigorous interdisciplinary scholarship.

To ensure the integrity of the scholarship program, we created a blue-ribbon selection committee comprised of gifted scholars and practitioners from a cross section of the disciplines associated with environmental investing. I'd like to thank Dr. Alex Rau for chairing this committee and all the members of the committee for their conscientious commitments and diligent contributions. I'd especially like to thank Professor Patricia Widener for writing the cogent introductory essay to the three papers we are publishing in this special issue.

The JEI SP Selection Committee

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| Chair: Alex Rau, PhD, principal, Climate Wedge |
| Paul Clements-Hunt, head of unit, United Nations Environmental Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) |
| Danyelle Guyatt, PhD, investment manager, Catholic Super Fund in Australia |
| Russell Read, PhD, deputy chief executive officer and chief investment officer for the Kuwait-based Gulf Investment Corporation |
| Nick Robins, head, HSBC Climate Change Center |
| Anthony W. Ryan, CFA, chief operating officer, Arrowstreet Capital |
| Shachi Sharma, PhD, head of business development, Syngenta |
| Patricia Widener, PhD, professor, Florida Atlantic University |

In this issue, we present the 2010–2011 JEI SP winning paper “Challenges and Opportunities: Using Carbon Finance to Scale SMEs in West Africa” by Amrita Vijay Kumar, MBA, MS. I was pleased to present the JEI SP \$3,500 award to Ms. Kumar on behalf of the scholarship committee and to discuss her research and goals for the future during a recorded interview. (Watch the video interview with 2010-2011 scholarship winner Amrita Kumar at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnisIyzk6KQ>.)

We envision the 2010–2011 scholarship as the first of many scholarships we award over the years to come. We would like to increase our reach into the academic community and offer our resources to more graduate students. To do so, we need your help. Please tell others of our efforts to bring recognition to the young scholars who will be analyzing and creating opportunities for environmental investing far into the future. In addition, we are currently exploring partnerships with similarly supportive organizations, and welcome any interest from educational, private, and public groups that would like to join our efforts in promoting relevant areas of academic study. And in all cases, please support those students pursuing academic research on environmental investing. Our future is tied to their commitment and success.

Thanks for your continued support,

