

# Department of Environmental Science and Policy Seminar Series

## Challenges of managing harmful algal blooms in US drinking water systems (and implications for climate policy)

Galen Treuer

Miami-Dade County's Office of Resilience

DATE: Friday, 03/04/2022 Time: 10:30 am

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3rDYGXH>



**Abstract:** Inland freshwater harmful algal blooms are a growing threat to drinking water worldwide. This talk will present the results of a national survey of how drinking water managers experience and perceive both nuisance harmful algal blooms and toxic harmful algal blooms (TABs) (N=335) in the United States. We find that previous experience with harmful algal blooms increases drinking water systems' planning and preparation. However, unexpectedly, we also find that (1) water managers who experienced TABs rate them as more difficult to manage than do those with no previous TAB experience, and (2) managers in systems that experience TABs become increasingly reliant on internal resources to respond to TABs once they occur rather than reaching out for external sources of information and technology. This turn towards self-reliance could make the effective dissemination of state-of-the-art information and solutions more difficult among water systems and further isolate some vulnerable systems.

**Bio:** Galen Treuer received a Ph.D. in environmental science and policy from the University of Miami and a B.A. in economics from Oberlin College and was a post-doctoral fellow at University of Connecticut. He joined Miami-Dade County's Office of Resilience in 2019 where he provides technical climate expertise on green economic development, climate risk and finance, climate justice, and strategic planning to increase cross functional resilience. Recent projects include facilitating the development of the County's new Climate Action Strategy, aligning resiliency strategies with the County Strategic Plan and budget process, and engagement with the emerging climate tech ecosystem.

