

Stephen W. Pacala

Frederick D. Petrie Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Ph.D., Stanford University, 1982



Research Interests

Pacala is interested in the processes that govern ecological communities, the interplay between community and ecosystem-level processes, and the interactions between the global biosphere and climate. His approach is to develop, calibrate and test mathematical models that explain ecological structure and function. Currently he directs a group called the Carbon Modeling Consortium, which is working to understand all aspects of the global carbon cycle. The group is composed of ecologists, physical and biological oceanographers, and atmospheric scientists, and investigates issues ranging from the effects of global vegetation on climate, to the large-scale measurement of natural and anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. Pacala is now working most intensively on a new model of the terrestrial biosphere.

Areas of Expertise

Ecology, climate change

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