

Response to Policy: Climate advisers must maintain integrity, Oliver Geden, *Nature* 521, 27–28; 2015 <http://www.nature.com/news/policy-climate-advisers-must-maintain-integrity-1.17468>

[Suggested title: The importance of policy entrepreneurs]

To the Editor:

Oliver Geden suggests that scientific advisers on climate should not be tempted to become “political entrepreneurs” by making their advice more palatable (*Nature* **521**, 27–28; 2015). In fact, climate advisers need to be astute political entrepreneurs if they are to present the benefits of a policy change without exaggerating claims.

Political pragmatism is not for helping policy-makers justify the status quo, but rather for presenting persuasive scientific evidence alongside other issues (D. C. Rose *Nature Climate Change* **4**, 1038- xxxx; 2014). Entrepreneurial climate scientists can offer fresh solutions to policy-makers, point out the improvements their ideas would provide, and explain how they would work in practice. These advisers take people’s concerns into account, build professional networks, and use every opportunity to maximize political influence (M. Mintrom and P. Norman *The Policy Studies Journal* **37**, 649-667; 2009).

Knowing how to optimize science presentation does not undermine the technical rigour needed to produce evidence with integrity. By increasing their understanding of how policy-makers use the evidence they provide, as Geden recommends, climate experts can then more effectively deploy it to argue for policy change.

Author: David C. Rose, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge, CB2 3EJ, UK. dcr31@hermes.cam.ac.uk, 01223 760832