Biography of Joseph Fiksel

Dr. Joseph Fiksel is a former management consultant, researcher and educator, currently serving as a Visiting Scholar at George Washington University’s Environmental and Energy Management Institute. His notable publications and real-world projects have advanced both the science and practice of sustainability and resilience, and he gained an international reputation as an expert in environmental risk management, design for sustainability, supply chain resilience, and complex systems modeling.

A native of Montreal, Joseph began his career at DuPont of Canada. He moved to the U.S. to join Arthur D. Little Inc. in Cambridge, MA, where he founded the Decision and Risk Management group. In 1998 he became Vice President for Life Cycle Management at Battelle, and his clients included the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and many leading multi-national companies. He joined The Ohio State University in 2005 to establish the Center for Resilience, and was instrumental in creating the university-wide Sustainability Institute. From 2010 to 2014 he also served U.S. EPA as Special Assistant for Sustainability, helping to embed systems thinking into the agency’s programs.

Joseph was an officer and founding member of the Society for Risk Analysis, and has testified to Congress and the White House on cancer risk attribution. He has published over 100 articles and several books, and has been a frequent keynote speaker at professional conferences. His most recent book is Resilient by Design: Creating Businesses That Adapt and Flourish in a Changing World. Joseph holds a B.Sc. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Ph.D. in Operations Research from Stanford University, and an advanced degree in applied mathematics from La Sorbonne, University of Paris. He continues to hold the title of Professor Emeritus at The Ohio State University.