

The Future of Climate Change: Navigating the Science in a Changing Political Climate

A free symposium for anyone who wants a greater understanding of emerging topics in climate change

- Promoting Scientific Literacy
- Improving Inter-disciplinary Dialogue
- Engaging Our Community

Tuesday, February 21st, 2012
Vancouver Island University, 900 Fifth Street, Nanaimo, BC
Arts/Science Building 355

8:45 Registration & Refreshments

9:15 Introduction and Opening Comments

B355 – Lecture Theatre (Rm 203)

9:30 -10:20 **Climate Change: Science and Public Perception** (Jeff Lewis; Geography, VIU)

Studies indicate that approximately 97% of climate researchers support the IPCC findings, that human greenhouse gas emissions are the main driving force of present day climate change, while opinion polls show that a much smaller proportion of the public share the same view. This presentation will address some of the causes of this discrepancy, review the evidence of present day climate change, and discuss the main driving forces that act to change the Earth's climate.

10:20 Coffee Break (Lounge)

10:30 -11:20 **Beyond Climate Change: Powering the Future** (Erik Krogh; Chemistry, VIU)

The Stone Age didn't end because we ran out of stones. This presentation will review compelling arguments to conserve energy and develop carbon neutral alternatives above and beyond the issue of global warming, including air quality, ozone depletion and the use of carbon reserves for new advanced materials. The scope and magnitude of global energy demands and an introduction to emerging energy alternatives, including recent advances in bio-mimetic photosynthesis will also be included.

11:20 Lunch Break (Lounge)

12:30 Break-out Activity Sessions (parallel sessions, choose any two – 1 hr each)

Building 355 – First Floor

a) Visualizing Climate Change – Interactive Web Activity

Climate change is complex. In this workshop we will look at web resources (Digital Learning Objects) designed at The King's Centre for Visualization in Science (<http://www.kcvs.ca/site/projects/climate.html>) to help students, teachers and the general public to better understand the science of climate change. This will include looking at www.explainingclimatechange.ca, which is a project intended to create learning materials about climate change for 16 – 19 year olds.

b) So What Do We Do Now? – Weighing the Evidence of Climate Change

Why do you put your seat belt on if you probably won't be in an accident? Decisions are made every day in the absence of perfect information. Be a policy maker for an hour and make choices by considering the credibility of the evidence and associated risks. Based on the book 'What's the Worst that Could Happen? A Rational Response the Climate Change Debate' by Greg Craven (Oregon High School teacher; www.gregcraven.org)

c) Navigating Facts & Biases – Bring the Tricky Questions

What is meant by climate tipping points and where does the 2° C warming threshold come from anyway? What is the most difficult question you have been asked about climate change? Bring your toughest question and we'll discuss the answer together. This session will include how climate change information is presented in the media and we will discuss the notion of 'confirmation bias' and how to detect it in ourselves and others.

d) Biofuel from Waste and other Opportunities in a Low Carbon Economy

Renewable energy initiatives are growing globally and locally, creating interesting research and job opportunities. Learn how biodiesel is being made from recycled waste cooking oil at the Cowichan Biofuel Facility and other opportunities in the emerging low carbon economy. Find out how empowering it is to get involved in constructive actions that address climate change.

e) The Psychology of Climate Change Communication

*Using the recently published guide *The Psychology of Climate Change Communication*, created by the Center for Research on Environmental Decisions (CRED) at Columbia University, this session will discuss the main principles of communicating science effectively in order to affect behaviour change and help society take the actions needed to respond to climate change.*
<http://cred.columbia.edu/guide/>

2:30 – 3:30 Interactive Discussion- Q & A

What don't we know about the Future of Climate Change?