



CENTER FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Center for Climate Action Newsletter

September 2009

Dear Center Partners,

Welcome to the September 2009 issue of the Center for Climate Action newsletter. I hope you find this information timely and useful.

The September 2009 issue of Science published new climate analysis that shows summertime Arctic temperatures are 1.4 degrees Celsius higher than expected, based on a 2,000 year cooling trend that the 20th century has reversed.

Readers might dismiss this change as trivial because most people experience more than a 1.4 degrees Celsius temperature change in the weather on any given day. So what does it matter if we see such a small change in the climate over so many thousands of years?

The answer is, it matters a lot. To put a human face on climate change, the [2006 Stern Review](#) concluded that a two to three degree Celsius increase in average temperature (we're talking climate here, not weather) would put one sixth of the world's population at risk of severe flood or drought, and could reduce crop production in Africa enough to put several hundred million people at risk of death by starvation.

I encourage all of you to follow the most recent updates in climate science, to take the time to understand what the science means, and to use it to inform your program and policy decisions. Some amount of climate change is inevitable, but tragedy and crisis need not be. I hope our webinar series on adaptation will help all types of organizations consider their approaches to coping with a changing world and contributing to a better one!

Best,

Margaret Bruce
Director
Center for Climate Action

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[Join the Center for Climate Action on Twitter and Facebook](#)

The Center is excited to provide climate news, event notifications and Center updates through Twitter and Facebook!

Upcoming Center for Climate Action Webinars

Center for Climate Action webinars are organized into tracks and highlight thought-leaders, current developments in climate policy, and model programs that are effectively reducing GHG emissions. Webinars are free and open to the general public until January 2010. In the new year, the webinars will be free to Partners and members of the public may attend for a fee. [Join the Center for Climate Action](#) for full access to our many webinars, events and publications. For a complete list of our events, please visit <http://www.centerforclimateaction.org/news-and-events/events/>.



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Business Series: Managing the Supply Chain

Thursday, September 17, 2009

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT

[Register here](#)

Nearly half of business executives believe climate change should be an important factor in supply chain management, however, only one-quarter of the companies always consider climate change in purchasing and supply chain decisions. So how do companies manage their supply chains? What are the key obstacles and drivers to reducing emissions within the supply chain? And how do you get started?

Adaptation Series: Local Strategies to Minimize the Consequences of Climate Change

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM PDT

[Register here](#)

While local government agencies work to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, they must also address the impacts of climate change. Preparing for climate change is not a one-size-fits-all proposition and local government agencies must address climate change vulnerabilities specific to their geographic region, overcoming diverse institutional barriers with limited resources. This webinar will begin to define some of these issues, focusing on a geographically and demographically diverse set of cities.

Legislative & Regulatory/Technology Series: Do Our Energy Policies Support Technological Innovation?

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT

[Register here](#)

New technologies for electric power generation, transmission, and metering are expected to play a major role in efforts to reduce dependence on foreign oil and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. Yet developing and deploying these advanced technologies will take more than investment in innovation. How well do our current energy policies support the development of new technologies? And what can local governments and businesses do to ensure the rapid deployment of innovative solutions?

Adaptation Series: State Strategies to Adapt to Climate Change

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT

[Register here](#)

Predicted temperature changes across the United States will likely impact the economic prosperity, ecological health, and long-term sustainability of communities across the US. As a result, many states are taking action to minimize the impacts of climate change. These early plans will likely drive the future planning methods, inter-governmental coordination, and planning policies for all states. Join our distinguished speakers as they discuss early lessons from Florida and California.

Adaptation Series: How and Why is the Insurance Industry Adapting to Climate Change?

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT

[Register here](#)

Climate change will likely affect the insurance industry in significant ways,

Second Annual Green Trade Network: Sustainable Cities of the 21st Century

The Center invites our government and business Partners to participate in the innovative [2nd Annual Green Trade Network Summit](#) on September 15, in Santa Cruz, CA. The summit will feature panels, presentations and guest appearances from the leaders of break-through products and services in air and water purification, green construction, waste management and renewable energy.

Governors' Global Climate Summit

The Center encourages our Partners to join global experts from government, business, NGO and other organizations to be a part of the international effort to combat climate change at the [Governors' Global Climate Summit](#) during September 30 - October 2 in Los Angeles, CA.

Just for Fun: What's the Difference Between Weather and Climate?

When scientists say the Arctic is 1.4 degrees Celsius warmer than expected, many people dismiss this change as trivial because they're thinking in terms of weather, not climate. What's the difference? The Smithsonian explains it [here](#).

Columbia Law School Climate Legislation Resource Center

The Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia Law School runs a [resource center](#) that tracks federal

including increased property damage from severe weather, spread of disease and loss of life from storms. Insurers will need to take action to minimize exposure to a changing climate. What actions can the insurance industry take to mitigate personal and commercial losses to extreme weather events? Why will the question of insurance be an important topic at the United Nations Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen?

Climate Policy Updates: The Month in Review

STATES

New York / Michigan Governors Issue Executive Orders on Climate Change

New York Governor David Patterson issued [Executive Order No. 24 \(2009\)](#), which set the goal to reduce the state's GHG emissions 90 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. Governor Patterson also formed a Climate Action Council to draft a state-wide climate action plan by September 2010. Similarly, Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm issued [Executive Order No. 2009-4](#), directing the state to reduce emissions 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2025 and 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050. The directive also implements policy measures to achieve these goals. The reduction goals and policy measures are products of the Michigan Climate Action Council, which Governor Granholm commissioned in 2007.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Update Addresses Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is in the process of updating its [CEQA guidelines](#). This update will review, revise and develop significance thresholds for criteria pollutants, air toxics, odors and greenhouse gas emissions.

INTERNATIONAL

Airlines Will Be the First Sector to Face Cap-and-Trade

The European Commission published a list of 4,000 airlines that will be subject to the European Union's (EU) emissions trading scheme in 2012. This list includes American airlines that operate flights into the EU, including Delta, United and American. The Federal Aviation Administration accused the EU of bad unilateral policy that would require foreign airlines to subsidize the EU's aviation industry. In the long term, the EU hopes to address aviation's emissions through an international treaty. [Learn more here](#).

Studies and Reports

Science Publishes Most Recent Climate Analysis to Date

New research and climate analysis in Science shows that the 20th century has reversed a 2,000 year long cooling trend in the Arctic. Summertime arctic temperatures had been cooling by 0.2 degrees Celsius every thousand years because of changes in the Earth's orbit. Although the orbital cycle continues, temperatures are now 1.4 degrees Celsius higher than expected. Four of the five warmest decades on record occurred between 1950 and 2000, and the warmest temperatures were recorded in the 1990s. [Read the abstract](#).

policy updates and policy analysis by various organizations. Learn more about what's happening in Congress on their website.

EPA launches State Climate and Energy Partner Network

EPA created a tool to help state staff understand and explore climate change and energy policy and program options. It provides updates on state activities and fosters communication among state-level decision makers. Visit the [registration page](#) to participate.

Special Partnership Rates for California Registry Members, Reserve Account Holders and Verification Bodies

In January 2010, California Registry members may continue Partnership with the Center for Climate Action for a 25 percent premium of California Registry membership, or The Climate Registry membership if you plan to transition.

Climate Action Reserve account holders, ANSI program participants, and California Registry-approved verification bodies receive a one-time, 50 percent discount on Partnership if you register before January 2010.

The Center for Climate Action is a new, solutions-oriented program of the Climate Action Reserve. To meet the climate challenge, the Center for Climate Action convenes business, government, academic and non-profit organizations to explore emerging issues in climate change impacts, policy, and adaptation

and to work collaboratively toward solutions. The Center provides Partners with the information they need to act on climate change, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preparing for the impacts of climate change, and engaging in the policy-making process. Benefits of becoming a Partner include workshops, trainings, access to issue briefs and analysis, awards, study trips and webinars. In 2009, the Center for Climate Action will focus on four areas of study:

- Western regional issues, including AB 32, SB 375 and the Western Climate Initiative
- Federal action
- Road to Copenhagen (COP 15)
- Mitigation and adaptation

For more information, please visit www.centerforclimateaction.org.