

LYCEUM 2007 - TURNING UP THE HEAT: GLOBAL WARMING AND PUGET SOUND

The eighth annual Lyceum Lectures focus on global warming and its impacts on our own bioregion. The following web sites provide resources for further study and understanding of this topic, so central to our future.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

<http://www.ipcc.ch>

The IPCC is the United Nations-based organization whose scientific assessments of global climate change are the gold standard of the field. In 2007 the IPCC has issued two sweeping reports, the “Summary for Policymakers” and the report on “Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability.”

United Nations Foundation

<http://www.unfoundation.org/SEG/>

The United Nations Foundation was formed to distribute funds from Ted Turner’s amazing gift of \$ 1 billion. It recently commissioned a scientific report on climate change with a focus on action steps, something the IPCC’s charter does not allow it to do. The two are thus complementary.

University of Washington Climate Impacts Group (CIG) <http://ces.washington.edu/cig>

The IPCC studies changes affecting the entire planet. The CIG calculates and analyzes the predictions for the future of the Pacific Northwest, an extremely complex task, and presents the results in ways that are maximally useful for regional policy-makers.

Climate Solutions

<http://climatesolutions.org>

Climate Solutions is a Northwest non-profit organization whose mission is to accelerate practical and profitable solutions to global warming by galvanizing leadership, growing investment and bridging divides. It has offices in Olympia and Seattle.

RealClimate

<http://www.realclimate.org>

RealClimate is a commentary site on climate science by working climate scientists for the interested public and journalists. The discussion is restricted to scientific topics and does not get involved in any political or economic implications of the science.

Washington State Department of Ecology

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/>

Ecology’s page focusing on what the state is actually doing to address climate change; it includes a global as well as a local perspective. You can sign up for their list serve by clicking on “Contacts.”

Uncertain Future: Climate Change and Its Effects on Puget Sound

<http://www.cses.washington.edu/db/pdf/snoveretalpsat461.pdf>

This is a publication of the Climate Impacts Group and the Puget Sound Action Team. The title tells the tale. Two of our speakers, Nate Mantua and Amy Snover, were lead authors.

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WSU Climate and Rural Energy Development Center

<http://www.energy.wsu.edu/projects/climate/>

This center is a component of WSU Extension's Energy Program. The web site gives useful information but is most valuable for the links it provides to other sites.

WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture & Natural Resources

<http://cff.wsu.edu/Links/index.html>

Another great center at WSU whose web site provides both information and numerous valuable links. The focus is on farming, but topics such as renewable energy, carbon sequestration and carbon credit trading are also covered.

Impacts of Climate Change on Washington's Economy

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0701010.pdf>

This report was commissioned by two Washington State departments, Ecology and Community, Trade and Economic Development and released last November. It was prepared by faculty and staff at the Climate Leadership Initiative (CLI) at the University of Oregon. Another of our speakers, Yoram Bauman, was a member of CLI and served as the lead author of the paper. The Executive Summary is compelling.

UK Climate Impacts Programme

<http://www.ukcip.org.uk/default.asp>

Although it is focused on the UK, this is a rich site for us in the Pacific Northwest as well. Especially useful is their "Adaptation Wizard" which suggests ways of going about defining and implementing steps to reduce our impact on global warming.

Global Research & Rescue

<http://www.grrescue.org>

This is the home organization of David Bain who spoke to us about orcas. Part of its mission is to enhance the public's understanding of the wildlife with which we share this planet by communicating and disseminating its knowledge of distressed marine and terrestrial animals throughout the globe.

Friends of Cooper Island

<http://www.cooperisland.org>

This is the home organization of George Divoky who spoke to us about birds. Its mission is to monitor climate change with arctic seabirds, and its activities include decades-long research as well as educational outreach efforts based on that research. It has been covered by the New York Times Magazine, ABC, and PBS among others.

Yoram Bauman

<http://www.standupeconomist.com>

This is the web site of Yoram Bauman who talked to us about the economic impacts of climate change, complete with his ideas on environmental economics as well as his distinctive humor. He invites e-correspondence at yoram@smallparty.org or yoram@standupeconomist.com.