



Climate Change National Forum

ClimateChangeNationalForum.org

**A national platform, founded and led by climate scientists,
to educate the American public on the science of climate change
and its policy implications.**

Climate Change National Forum and Review is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity in Houston, TX.
Founding Board: John Nielsen-Gammon, PhD; Barry Lefer, PhD; and Tracy Hester, Esq.
Founding Exec. Director: Michael Quirke

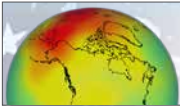


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Introduction

Climate Change National Forum (CCNF) is a national platform, founded and led by climate scientists, to inform and educate the American public on the science of climate change and its policy implications. Our website, ClimateChangeNationalForum.org, debuted on January 1, 2014 and has quickly gained national attention as a “go-to” source for citizens wanting to hear what scientists have to say about climate change. The site is an open forum for climate, physical, earth, and life scientists to blog about climate science and share and debate ideas on aspects of the science relevant to policy making. Many of the nation’s leading climate scientists are now blogging in the Forum and fact checking and commenting on recent stories in the media.

While the CCNF journalistic initiative covers both science and policy, we are starting with the science. As Texas State Climatologist and CCNF co-founder Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon explains: **“You can’t develop policy in response to potential future threats or opportunities unless you know what those threats and opportunities are.”** After a good foundation in the science has been set (meaning any and all necessary debate on the science has been exhausted by the scientists), Phase II will kick in, and the Forum will open up to subject matter experts and policy makers willing to compare and debate the benefits and costs of possible responses.

CCNF has demonstrated some remarkable success since the Forum’s debut in January. With only 16 featured articles, CCNF has garnered over 25,000 views and from over 6,000 unique visitors. Our social media play per post is far surpassing that of other climate blogs and reaching levels only seen on major blogs of the nation’s daily newspapers. Our Tweets have reached hundreds of thousands of feeds, thanks in large part to a diverse following of journalists and scientists all over the world. The CCNF Scientist Community has doubled in size and includes atmospheric scientists, oceanographers, physicists, and other scientists at the forefront of the peer-reviewed research in their fields. (CCNF is openly soliciting all Fellows and scientist-members of the American Geophysical Union, American Meteorological Society, and American Institute of Physics to join and participate, and the Forum is open to any scientist that can meet the CCNF scientist criteria, as determined by the scientists on the board.)

CCNF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and has gotten this far on the generous time and energy of its volunteer science columnists and a jack-of-all-trades executive director, but to continue operations beyond May, we need at least one salaried staff member. And if CCNF is to reach its full potential as America’s most trusted and most viewed source for credible dialogue on climate change, we need funding at levels commensurate with that goal. As such, CCNF seeking corporate sponsorship and Foundation funding to:

- 1.) Hire an **executive director** and **communications director** to manage the site, assist and integrate the columnists, run a robust marketing/SEO/AdWords campaign, and build CCNF’s national profile. It will be incumbent on these two staff members to quickly grow a national audience and ensure that the scientists’ and journalist’s content is accessible to — *and reaches* — all facets of the American public.



2.) Hire a **lead science journalist** to run the fact checker section, moderate as needed, publish interviews and original pieces, tweet and post regularly in social media, create podcasts and possibly host a radio show, and provide ongoing reports that break down the Forum's complex content so that it is accessible to the general public.

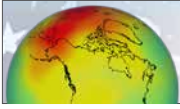
3.) Have the ability to **compensate those science columnists** that are taking a leadership role in the initiative and contributing posts regularly. Compensating a core group will ensure a regular stream of contributions from climate scientists at the forefront of the published literature on climate change.

In sum, what is the value of bridging the communication gap between the scientific community and American people on this issue? What is providing the general citizenry with the most accurate possible understanding of science of climate change worth? Is there a monetary value in a powerful and truly objective platform for leading scientists to fact check coverage of climate change by the news media and honestly converse on this issue before the American people? Is it enough to pay a staff? What is the national value of forcing a bipartisan national dialogue, grounded in science, on what can or should be done about climate change as a nation?

At this point, we are not asking corporations, foundations, or individuals to bet on our success. The success of the Forum project has been demonstrated. We are simply asking corporations, foundations and individuals to help continue—and scale up—what is *already* working. Financial contributions in the amount of \$50,000 to \$1,000,000 or more will enable CCNF to sustain itself as the leading national forum on climate change, measurably improve climate and science literacy in all facets of the American public, and advance the national dialogue on climate change beyond the current partisan morass. With your help, we can and will make that happen.

Sincerely,

Michael Quirke
Executive Director
Climate Change National Forum
ClimateChangeNationalForum.org
Former Captain, U.S. Army (infantry)



Executive Summary

- The mission of CCNF is to educate the public on the science of climate change and its policy implications.
- CCNF will accomplish this through ClimateChangeNationalForum.org, a blog, forum, and fact checker website featuring a live dialogue on the science of climate change by scientists. Later in Phase II, experts and policy makers will join this national dialogue to compare and debate the benefits and costs of possible responses.
- CCNF project has two phases. Phase I will focus on the science of climate change and will likely comprise the first year of publishing. Phase II will focus on not only the science of climate change but also its policy implications and continue indefinitely.
 - Phase I: Site serves as a platform for scientists to discuss the latest research on climate change, share and debate ideas on aspects of climate change relevant to policy making, and fact check or comment on claims made in the media. Only scientists and journalists have publishing privileges in the Forum.
 - Phase II: Site serves as a platform for subject matter experts and policy makers on either side of the aisle to compare and debate the benefits and costs of possible policy responses. The science columnists will continue blogging on the science in the science areas of the site and in the Scientists' Comment Thread.
- CCNF is neutral platform and open to any scientist that can meet the CCNF science columnist criteria. In Phase II, the platform will be open to any subject matter or policy expert that can meet the CCNF subject matter or policy columnist criteria. CCNF is not an advocacy. The organization has no position on climate change and the CCNF journalism staff is purposefully starting with zero assumptions on climate change. In sum, scientists speak for themselves in the Forum and the CCNF journalists report what the scientists say.
- CCNF is openly soliciting all Fellows and scientist-members of the American Geophysical Union, American Meteorological Society, and American Institute of Physics in order to amass a community of science columnists that is representative of the greater climate and physical sciences publishing community.
- Science columnists have free reign to post in their own personal pages and in any science area of the website and comment under any post. When Phase II begins, there will be a general bifurcation of science and policy. Subject matter or policy columnists will only be able to publish posts and comment in the policy areas of the site. Similarly, the science columnists will only be able to publish posts in the science area, but, unlike the subject matter and policy columnists, the scientists will be able to comment under policy posts.
- Key features of the ClimateChangeNationalForum.org website include the following:
 - an individual blog page for each columnist member (this page will feature all posts by a columnist and can act as the columnist's own personal blog);
 - separate comment threads for the science columnists (see Scientists' Comment Thread) and the general public (see Public Comment Thread);
 - a user-friendly content management system that requires no html or coding knowledge;

- a growing library of Creative Commons photos to run with content;
- a Huffington Post-style social media “sharebar” that scrolls as one reads a post;
- the technical ability to host well over 200 columnists (the site is built for a crowd);
- a “Climate Change in the Media” section, featuring statements and articles procured by a journalist and posted for the CCNF Scientist Community to fact check or comment on; and
- a general bifurcation between science and policy, with the blogging on the science acting as a foundation for the policy discussion and debate that will begin in Phase II.

CCNF Homepage

Individual Blog Page

Separate Comment Threads for the Scientists and the Public

Google Authorship for Columnists with Google+ Pages

WordPress's User-friendly Back-end

NASA, Staff, & Commons Photos to Run with Content



Board of Directors



John Nielsen-Gammon, PhD
Texas A&M Atmospheric Sciences
Texas State Climatologist
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Barry Lefer, PhD
University of Houston Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
blefer@uh.edu

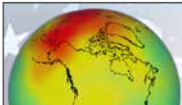


Tracy Hester, Esq
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Staff



Michael Quirke
Executive Director
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ClimateChangeNationalForum@gmail.com



CCNF Columnist Community (as of 4/28/2014)

CCNF Science Columnists



Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon

Regents Professor of Atmospheric Sciences and Texas State Climatologist
Texas A&M University



Dr. Kerry Emanuel

Professor of Atmospheric Science and Director of the Program in
Atmospheres, Oceans, and Climate
Massachusetts Institute of Technology



Dr. Barry Lefer

Professor of Atmospheric Science, Atmospheric Chemistry and Associate
Chair of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
University of Houston



Dr. John Anderson

W. Ewing Professor of Oceanography and Director of the Shell Center
for Sustainability
Rice University



Dr. Jim Bouldin

Research ecologist, founder of the blog *Ecologically Oriented*, and
contributor to RealClimate.org



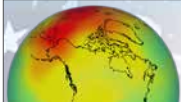
Prof. Maurice Pelto

Glaciologist, Director of the North Cascade Glacier Climate Project, and
Professor of Environmental Science
Nichols College



Ms. Lulu Liu

2nd year PhD student in Applied Physics and former AAAS Mass Media Fellow
Harvard University



Dr. Bart Verheggen

Atmospheric scientist and founder of the blog *Our Changing Climate*
Amsterdam University College



Dr. Andrew Dessler

Professor of Atmospheric Sciences, co-author of *The Science and Politics of Global Climate Change*, and author of *Introduction to Modern Climate Change*
Texas A&M University



Dr. Andreas Schmittner

Associate Professor of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences
Oregon State University



Dr. Scott Denning

Monfort Professor of Atmospheric Science and Director of Education and Diversity for the Center for Multiscale Modeling of Atmospheric Processes
Colorado State University



Dr. Jeremy Shakun Dessler

Paleoclimatologist and Assistant Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Boston College



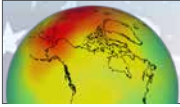
Dr. Michael Tobis

Former engineer, climate modeler, and Research Scientist Associate at the University of Texas, co-founder of the blog *Planet3.org*



Dr. Stephanie Germaine Thomas

Former development geologist and stratigrapher in the energy industry with research experience in reconstructing ancient environment and climate and current environmental and community advocate.



Dr. Sean Robinson

Physics Lecturer and leader of the MIT Physics Junior Lab, committee member and secretary of the Coastal Adaptation Advisory Committee for Town of Marshfield, MA
Massachusetts Institute of Technology



Dr. Daniel Cohan

Associate Professor of Environmental Engineering and Faculty Fellow at the Baker Institute Center for Energy Studies
Rice University



Dr. Judith Curry

Professor and Chair of the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, President of Climate Forecast Applications Network, and proprietor of the blog Climate Etc.
Georgia Institute of Technology

CCNF Subject Matter and Policy Columnists



Prof. Tracy Hester

Environmental law professor and former Director of the Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Center
University of Houston Law Center



Mr. Bob Inglis

Member of U.S. House of Representatives (R - South Carolina 1993-1999; 2005-2011) and Executive Director of the Energy and Enterprise Initiative.
George Mason University



Prof. Jed Anderson

Clean Air Act practitioner and reform advocate, and adjunct professor of environmental law
University of Houston Law Center



Dr. Shi-Ling Hsu

Environmental law professor, economist, and author of *The Case for the Carbon Tax: Getting Past our Hang-ups to Effective Climate Policy*
Florida State University

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Global Climate Change Impact on the Upper Texas Coast

John Anderson, 4/17/2014



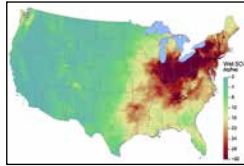
Very few scientists still question global warming and the role humans have had in the process, while outside the science community it is largely viewed as a prediction. The reality is that climate change and associated accelerated sea-level rise are not predictions. Tide gauge records are supported by satellite data...

... At the same time, the population of the greater Houston area continues to push south and into areas that are highly vulnerable to storm surge. The highly vulnerable Port of Houston and petrochemical industry at the head of Galveston Bay continues to expand. The City of Galveston refuses to adopt a setback policy...

Do We Understand the Atmosphere Enough to Identify Problems and Help Solve Them? Heck Yes, We are Two-for-Two

Mauri Pelto, 3/10/2014

Whenever I am asked the question of how well we understand the atmosphere that is being changed by the addition of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, I often find it useful to look at the scientific history of two other recent atmospheric pollution challenges: acid rain and stratospheric ozone depletion.



Climate Change Discussion in Houston

Barry Lefer, 2/26/2014

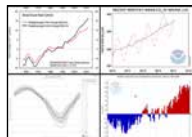


The self proclaimed "Energy Capital of the World" hosted a climate change event last week. On Tuesday Feb. 11th, more than 300 students, faculty, industry leaders, and members of general public participated in a hosted climate change discussion at the University of Houston (UH)... The featured speakers for the event were: Richard A. Feely, Ph.D., a NOAA...

My Fab Four Up-to-Date Climate Change Observations

Andreas Schmittner, 2/12/2014

... In my opinion one of the most important is ocean heat content. The reason is simple. The ocean's heat capacity is enormous. It takes up almost all of the additional heat the Earth accumulated in the last decades...



Tail Risk vs. Alarmsim (149 Tweets!)

Kerry Emanuel, 3/31/2014



The American Association for the Advancement of Science just published a statement on climate risk on which I am a co-author. This statement has several aims, one of which is to highlight the importance of societal risk in the low-probability tail of the climate change probability distribution. ...

Tail risk is a concept that everyone is familiar with at some level. To take a rather obvious example, suppose an 8-year-old girl comes to a busy street which she must cross to catch her school bus. Unsure what to do, she asks an adult bystander for advice. The adult replies that, most probably, she will make it across the street unharmed. ...

Cause and Effect (525 Facebook Shares!)

Scott Denning, 3/2/2014

Why are scientists so confident that a business as usual future based on fossil fuels will lead to major changes in the Earth's climate? Because we seek to understand climate in terms of cause and effect.



... Doubling CO2 concentration without warming the climate would reduce outgoing thermal radiation by 3.7 W m⁻². If we have learned anything from Pinatubo, from the Last Millennium, or from the Ice Ages, it's that when the Earth's energy budget is out of balance, the climate changes. If climate warms by 0.8 °C per W m⁻², then doubling CO2 should eventually warm the climate by (3.7 W m⁻²) x (0.8 °C per W m⁻²) = 3°C. This is about the same amount of warming predicted by climate models [Stocker et al, 2013], but you don't need a climate model to get this number.

Unfortunately, if the world proceeds with economic development based on fossil fuels the CO2 will double not once but twice from preindustrial levels....

J.Christy, R.McNider, & Roy Spencer trying to overturn mainstream science by rewriting history, knowingly spreading falsehoods, and re-baselining graphs

Bart Verheggen, 2/22/2014

Who are the Flat Earthers? Before the advent of modern climatology, common wisdom had it that we tiny humans couldn't possibly influence climate. Modern science shows we can. Yet John Christy and Richard McNider claim the exact opposite in recent...



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Gilkey Glacier Retreat Lake Formation

Mauri Pelto, 2/6/2014

As glacier retreat has increased over the last 30 years, the number of new lakes formed by retreat has exploded. Alaska is one region where this is particularly true. ... By 1984 my third visit to the glacier, a lake had formed and grown...



What We Know About Climate

Andrew Dessler, 1/25/2014

... I will review what I think is the most important conclusions that the scientific community has reached in over two centuries of work on climate. ...



The standard model explains just about everything we have seen and has successfully predicted phenomena in the climate system.

... So let me conclude by telling you a few of the certain impacts of climate change: We know the planet is going to warm. That's virtually certain. We know extreme heat events will become more frequent. We know the distribution of rain fall will change. We know the seas will rise. We know the oceans will become more acidic. We can argue about the things we don't know, but those are things that are virtually certain.

Your Login Escapes Me (2,524 views!)

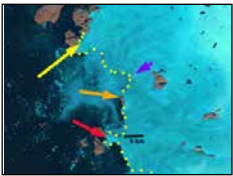
John Nielsen-Gammon, 1/22/2014



Several times during the past few months, I've heard generally incredulous statements such as, "How can the IPCC increase their confidence in anthropogenic global warming at the same time their model projections are diverging farther and farther from reality?" ...

Greenland Ice Sheet Retreat Leading to Island Development

Mauri Pelto, 1/14/2014



Climate change is changing the map of our world. The changes can be distant from the cause, such as sea level rise, which is partially from melting ice sheets, on coastlines around the world.

The Public Debate on Climate Change

Bart Verheggen, 1/9/2014



The physical complexity of global climate is evident. However, resolving the issue of global warming is also socially and politically complex. ...

Because of the strong societal impacts and the inherent uncertainty surrounding them, people's perceptions of these effects differ wildly. These perceptions are influenced by their ethical, ideological, cultural and political beliefs, by the way they balance different risks and by their belief of what constitutes well-being. ...

Besides the differences in problem perception and strong interdependencies that characterize the global warming debate, there are other confounding issues, which together have earned global warming the label 'super wicked problem'...

Thoughts on Inference and Method

Jim Bouldin, 1/19/2014



One pretty certain fact about science is that much of the public is more interested in the various findings of science, than in the methods by which they are generated. Science generates some "wow, cool!" findings, so this is (somewhat) understandable. Science writers generally oblige this interest by focusing on findings over methods...

The Weather Trap

John Nielsen-Gammon, 1/12/2014

Climate change is something that's difficult to experience directly. How many people can say, from personal experience, that it feels like the average temperature in your hometown, let alone the globe, has changed by a degree or two over the past century?



Instead, people tend to try to detect climate change on their own from their experience of individual, usually extreme events. For example, "It never seems to get as cold as it used to." Communicators have learned this, and have taken to emphasizing individual events as evidence for or against climate change.

I call this "the weather trap". Weather extremes will always take place, no matter how the climate changes. Some will become more frequent, some less frequent. Many weather extremes...

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Gavin Schmidt and Judith Curry on Science Advocacy

Bart Verheggen, 1/6/2014

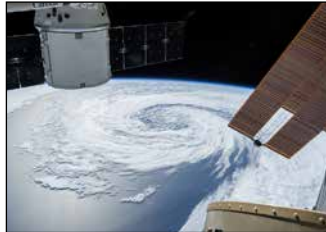


Gavin gave a fantastic talk at this year's AGU conference about science advocacy. ... He argued that it's best to be explicit about one's values and clearly distinguish when one is talking values ("ought") and when one is talking science ("is"). I entirely agree.

The Basics of Extreme Weather and Global Warming

John Nielsen-Gammon, 1/2/2014

... In order to lay the groundwork for future discussions of extreme weather events, I'd like to discuss the basic scientific expectations for changes in extreme events.



What is extreme weather?

Much confusion arises from the fact that "extreme weather" has two different meanings.

One meaning is that of "statistically extreme weather", weather that happens extremely rarely. An example would be the record high temperature for a particular day and place. ... The other meaning is that of "extremely dangerous weather". An example would be a tornado. ...

A Glacier that did not Survive

Mauri Pelto, 1/2/2014



The rain had poured down us all day, finally at 4 pm it relented. We left the tent with a rush and headed over the ridge from Pumice Creek to visit Milk Lake Glacier. To our surprise the glacier pictured on the map was nearly gone. ...

Mind the Gap -- Thoughts on the Science Communication Problem

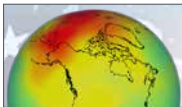
Lulu Liu, 1/22/2014

Outreach. The word itself suggests a kind of uneasy exertion of the body. It reminds us that bringing scientific knowledge to the public, far from natural or straightforward, is an exercise demanding all manners of contortions.



... That summer I learned that language matters. I learned that context matters, that a truthful narrative supported by facts is compelling on its own. And I learned that our inability to tell the story of science—of its goodness, its vision, its relentless truth-seeking—is eroding the public's trust.

Science is not quick or glamorous, and we don't need to make it look that way. It's the piecemeal assembly of reality, fact by painstaking fact, and that is beautiful enough. Every time the incremental is reported as revolutionary, a disservice is done. To sensationalize scientific progress is to misrepresent it. ...

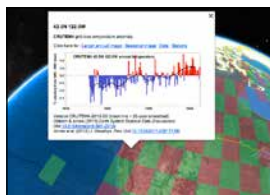


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Media fact checked or commented on by the CCNF Scientist Community (up to 4/11/2014):



NEW GOOGLE EARTH CLIMATE DATA RECORD shows climate records—many as far back as 1850—all over the World. Data from the CRUTEM4 dataset, compiled by the University of East Anglia CRU.



YAHOO NEWS article “Global Cooling—The REAL Inconvenient Truth” claims climate is cooling and will likely continue cooling for 20 years, sunspot cycles the “real culprit” of climate change, and new evidence



IPCC releases summary on climate impacts, adaptation and vulnerability for policy makers, accepts full final draft of second installment of Fifth Assessment Report.



AAAS NEW REPORT: Earth’s climate on path to warm beyond range experienced in “past millions of years”; action needed to lower costs & risks of catastrophic and irreversible im-



DR. NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON in COSMOS: “As these ancient forests grew and died [...] their remains transformed into coal. 300M years later, we humans are burning that coal to power — and imperil — our civilization.”



DR. GARTH PALTRIDGE on JUDITH-CURRY.COM claims reluctance of IPCC and others to reduce confidence levels in light of hiatus and misunderstood climate mechanisms shows a lack of scientific skepticism.



NATE COHN in NEW REPUBLIC: Last decade warmest on record and hiatus due to “laundry-list of mitigating factors like a prolonged La Nina, [...] modest volcanic activity, and ebb in solar activity.”



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES & ROYAL SOCIETY: 40% increase in atmos. CO2 since Indust. Rev. and 0.8°C warming since 1900, most of the increase and warming occurred recently, substantial warming in...



SEN. JEFF MERKLEY (D-Oregon): Carbon pollution is “assaulting” Oregon’s agriculture, fishing, oyster, and timber industries; western forests of U.S. in great peril.



SEN. JEFF SESSIONS (R-Alabama): Climate model predictions of warming are not panning out, & even if goals of Climate Action Plan were achieved, there’d be no measurable difference for 100 yrs.



NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL: The greenhouse effect is natural and essential to keeping the Earth’s surface warm. Human activities — especially burning fossil fuels — are amplifying the effect.



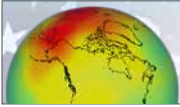
HEARTLAND INSTITUTE’s NIPCC REPORT claims “[G]lobal warming ceased around the end of the 20th cent. and was followed (since 1997) by 16 years of stable temperature.”



MOTHER JONES: Polar vortex on “drunken” excursion from Arctic home, such disorderly conduct thanks in part to overall warming of the Arctic according to research of Dr. Jennifer Francis.



“Quantifying the consensus on anthropogenic global warming in the scientific literature” by John Cook et al: 97% of climate scientists agree that humans are causing climate change.



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CCNF Social Media (Twitter handle: @ClimateChangeNF)

Tweets

ClimateChangeNF @ClimateChangeNF · 15h
Drs Denning & @ASchmittner: SolarMax on downwrd trend 4 30yrs. Sun been dimming. GlobalCooling article by YAHOO a NO GO climatechangenationalforum.org/yahoo-news-art...
Expand Reply Delete Favorite More

ClimateChangeNF @ClimateChangeNF · 20h
@MVirtanen @Revkin See Dr N-G commnt: Scntsts have obligatn 2 talk about best-case too but bst-case 4 climate senstvty doesn't avoid OA prob
View conversation Reply Delete Favorite More

ClimateChangeNF @ClimateChangeNF · Apr 7
Accord 2 Dr Anderson, TX truly a "state of denial" when it comes 2 protectng citizens & industry agnst sea level rise climatechangenationalforum.org/global-climate...
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Retweeted by ClimateChangeNF
Matti Virtanen @MVirtanen · Mar 31
@Revkin @ClimateChangeNF Why is risk of cooling hardly ever addressed? Too extreme?
View conversation Reply Retweeted Favorite More

Retweeted by ClimateChangeNF
Andy Revkin @Revkin · Mar 31
K.Emanuel: What is sometimes cast as warming alarmism is valid discussion of worst-case risk tail. climatechangenationalforum.org/tail-risk-vs-a... @ClimateChangeNF
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Retweeted by ClimateChangeNF
Dana Nuccitelli @dana1981 · Mar 31
Tail Risk vs. Alarmism - Kerry Emanuel is on a roll!
climatechangenationalforum.org/tail-risk-vs-a... via @ClimateChangeNF
Expand Reply Retweeted Favorite More

Retweeted by ClimateChangeNF
Andrew Dessler @AndrewDessler · Apr 1
Great post at @ClimateChangeNF by Kerry Emanuel on the importance of communicating the risk of the extremes: climatechangenationalforum.org/tail-risk-vs-a...
Expand Reply Retweeted Favorite More

ClimateChangeNF @ClimateChangeNF · Mar 31
"The adult [bystander] replies that, most probably, she will make it across unharmed" -Dr K.E. climatechangenationalforum.org/tail-risk-vs-a... pic.twitter.com/yEA5Hz93sn

Expand Reply Delete Favorite More

Retweeted by ClimateChangeNF
Gavin Schmidt @ClimateOfGavin · Oct 16
New initiative on US climate science comms/disc from John Nielsen-Gammon and colleagues: climatechangenationalforum.org/letter-to-fell...



Climate Change National Forum shared a link.

March 21 · Edited

Dr. Sean Robinson, a Lecturer in the Physics Dept. at MIT and newest member of CCNF, weighs in on Neil deGrasse Tyson's claim that the burning of coal "powers -- and imperils -- our civilization" in the first episode of the new Cosmos. See the latest in the Scientists' Comment Thread at ClimateChangeNationalForum.org.



Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson in first episode of Cosmos: "As these ancient forests grew and died and..."
climatechangenationalforum.org

POSTED FOR COMMENTARY BY THE CCNF SCIENTIST COMMUNITY "As these ancient forests grew and died, and sank beneath the surface, their remains transformed into

Like · Comment · Share

Bryan Gillespie and Mike Wille like this.



Write a comment...

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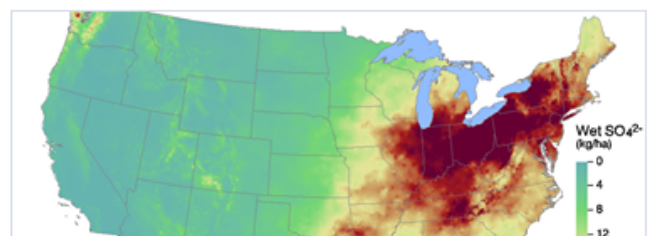
Boost Post



Climate Change National Forum shared a link.

March 10

Latest from the CCNF Scientist Community: Prof. Mauri Peltó on acid rain and stratospheric ozone depletion -- two examples where the scientific community identified man-made problems based on an incomplete but adequate understanding of our atmosphere and then helped solve them.





Introducing Climate Change National Forum

By John Nielsen-Gammon

CHRON.COM, January 9, 2014

I'm a contributor to a new web site that's publicly launching today: Climate Change National Forum (CCNF). It's a site that will (I hope) develop into a home for expert discussions and debate about science and policy issues related to climate change.

As seen in the CCNF masthead, the subtitle reads: **"A national platform founded by leading climate scientists to educate the American public about climate change."**

I'm not aware of any existing websites that fit that bill. Most, but not all, climate-related websites are devoted to presenting a particular point of view. Most, but not all, climate-related websites are hosted or written by one, two, or three individuals. Most, but not all, climate-related websites are written by non-scientists. Many climate-related websites have gained a reputation of being hostile to people expressing certain positions. Many climate-related websites have gained a reputation of posting material of questionable accuracy. And while some of the most interesting nuggets of content can be found in the comment sections of many climate-related websites, the nugget-to-drivel ratio tends to be discouragingly low.

My point of view as a contributor to Climate Change National Forum is that people need the most accurate possible understanding of the science of climate change.

When someone says that climate science shows that the latest cold air outbreak was partly driven by climate change, people need to know what's wrong with that statement. When someone says that the latest cold air outbreak is evidence that global warming is false, people need to know what's wrong with that statement, too. **I don't know if it's possible to create a web site that people at all ends of the scientific and political spectrum can trust, but by being honest and not playing favorites, we're going to give it a shot.**

We have multiple contributors. Right now just a handful, but eventually we're shooting for several dozen. This will provide a diversity of opinion, a broad range of expertise, and plenty of new information every week. Contributors must be properly credentialed, honest, rational, and engaging. Guest postings from non-contributors

CCNF Profile



Dr. Nielsen-Gammon's breadth of research includes extreme rainfall events, drought monitoring and forecasting, ozone events, air pollution climatology, numerical simulation, and improvements in the climate data record. He teaches courses in weather analysis, weather forecasting, climatology, and atmospheric dynamics at the Texas A&M Department of Atmospheric Sciences and has served as the Texas State Climatologist since his appointment by then-Governor George W. Bush in 2000. Dr. Nielsen-Gammon is a well recognized and trusted figure in Texas and a prolific communicator on all things climate. Dr. Nielsen-Gammon has his own blog, "*Climate Abyss*" on Chron.com.

Awards:

Dr. Nielsen-Gammon received a Presidential Faculty Fellow award (now known as PECASE) from the National Science Foundation and the White House in 1996, a Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching at Texas A&M University from the Association of Former Students in 1996, and was named a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) in 2011. He is Past President of the International Commission for Dynamical Meteorology and is past chair of the AMS Board on Higher Education.

will also be accepted from time to time if they meet the appropriate standards.

One of the key features of Climate Change National Forum is the Scientists Comment Thread, which appears below each entry and above the general comment section and displays comments made by other contributors. Rather than presenting a unified face to the outside world, contributors are encouraged to question, debate, dispute, expand, and otherwise discuss other contributions. The public rarely gets to see scientists debating each other, outside of the fake debates that are set up by news shows. As scientists know, what scientists eventually tell the outside world in publications, presentations, and committee reports gives little or no clue (or even the wrong impressions) about how scientists judge scientific claims, evaluate evidence, develop hypotheses, and reach conclusions. I know of no web site, inside or outside of climate science, that allows the public to experience true scientific discussions on a regular basis.

I hope that by understanding the nature of science and scientific reasoning, the public will be better able to place the proper amount of trust in scientific claims, in all areas of science. As I've discussed here before (in an entry that I'll repost on Climate Change National Forum in the near future), the proper amount of trust in scientific claims is often quite far from 100%.

While the focus of the site is on both science and policy, we're starting with the science. You can't develop policy in response to potential future threats or opportunities unless you know what those threats and opportunities are. I suppose this sounds a lot like the IPCC, but: we're not trying to satisfy some multinational mandate, we're not holding our debates privately, and we're not limiting our focus to man-made climate change. The IPCC has its role to play, and so does the CCNF.

Recent Press

"MIT Scientist: An Obligation to Take on 'Tail Risk' vs. Alarmism," *Yale Forum on Climate Change and the Media*, 4/10/2014 (re-posting of Dr. Emanuel's piece on CCNF)



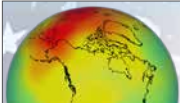
the YALE forum on
CLIMATE CHANGE & THE MEDIA

Connecting scientists, journalists, and communicators

"New Website Wants to Encourage Public Discussion of Climate Change by Scientists," *The Bridge: Connecting Science and Policy*, 11/12/2013 (story was also featured on the AGU Blogosphere homepage).



AGU Blogosphere
American Geophysical Union



“Share Ideas on Climate, Influence Policy Options,” *THE FRONT PAGE* (blog of the American Meteorological Society), 10/15/2013.



Columnist Criteria and Application Instructions

Science Columnist Criteria:

To participate as a science columnist in ClimateChangeNationalForum.org, one must:

- have an adequate level of expertise in some area of climate science;
- agree to evaluate the science of climate change with an open mind;
- have a demonstrated commitment to accuracy; and
- agree to express one’s personal opinion only and refrain from speaking for or on behalf of any organization.

Application Instructions for Scientists:

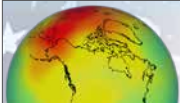
If you meet the above criteria and are interested in contributing as a science columnist, you can apply for admission into CCNF and publishing access on ClimateChangeNationalForum.org by sending an email to ClimateChangeNationalForum@gmail.com with the subject line “Science Columnist Application.” Please include the following information:

- name;
- email address;
- affirmation that the you meet the columnist criteria;
- short biography to display upon admission (200 words max);
- cv;
- photo; and
- any links to your recent and/or most applicable publications.

Subject Matter or Policy Columnist Criteria (Phase II):

To participate as a subject matter or policy columnist in phase II of CCNF, one must:

- have an adequate level of expertise in energy, economic, environmental or national policy or in any



- area or field directly or indirectly related to these policy areas;
- agree to base one's subject matter and policy position on climate science that has been discussed or reviewed by the science columnists;* and
 - have a demonstrated commitment to accuracy.

**If a policy columnist proposes a policy position based on a study or an area of science that has not been discussed or reviewed by the scientists, the moderator will note it in the Forum and post the referenced study for the science columnists to discuss or comment under.*

Application Instructions for Subject Matter or Policy Experts:

If you meet the above criteria and are interested in participating as a subject matter or policy columnist, you can apply for admission into CCNF and publishing access in the policy categories of ClimateChangeNationalForum.org by sending an email to ClimateChangeNationalForum@gmail.com with the subject line "Subject Matter or Policy Columnist Application." Please include the following information:

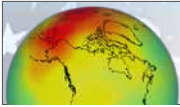
- name;
- email address;
- affirmation that you meet the columnist criteria;
- preferred identification as a subject matter columnist (please name the subject matter area) or a policy columnist;*
- short biography to display upon admission (200 words max);
- cv;
- photo; and
- any links to your recent and/or most applicable publications.

Admission and Publishing Privileges in ClimateChangeNationalForum.org

Applications will go to the board. If the board determines that an applicant meets the columnist criteria, then the applicant *shall* be admitted into the Forum as a columnist (this is inscribed in the CCNF bylaws). Once an applicant is admitted as a columnist, the CCNF staff will then provide the columnist with publishing privileges and provide any necessary technical support to get the columnist up and running. After that, the columnist will be able to publish posts on his or her own page and in any science or policy category as little or as much as he or she would like. The CCNF board is asking that columnists contribute a post at least once a month on average and participate in some of the discussions in the columnist-only comment threads below posts.

Bifurcation of Science and Policy

There is a general division between science and policy in the Forum. Subject matter or policy columnists will be able to publish posts and comment in policy categories only. Similarly, the science columnists will only be able to publish posts in the science categories. However, the science columnists will be able to comment under any



policy post. Hopefully, this will keep the policy discussion and debate grounded in the science.

Guest Columnist Criteria

Any columnist-member may invite any person to contribute as a guest columnist to any area of the site that the columnist-member has access to. The only criterion one must meet to contribute as a guest columnist is that he or she must base his or her policy position on science discussed and reviewed by the science columnists. This criterion does not apply to any published scientist or anyone who is an author of a book on climate change. Guest columnists do not become members of the organization by contributing as guest columnists.

The CCNF board of directors or a committee with board-delegated powers cannot prevent a guest columnist from posting on ClimateChangeNationalForum.org. Inviting guest columnists is a columnist's own individual privilege. Guest columnists will be able to contribute five times to the Forum. A guest columnist will be able to contribute more than 5 times if his or her guest columnist status is extended by a board member, committee with board-delegated powers, or journalist.

Causes of Removal

Causes of removal of member-columnists from the columnist community by the CCNF board include the following:

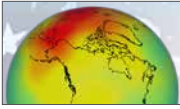
- a) failure to meet the columnist criteria;
- b) continual failure to demonstrate courtesy and respect to other columnists; or
- c) continual failure to refrain from personally attacking other columnists.

When a columnist is removed from CCNF, the reason for his or her removal shall be stated in the corporate records and communicated to the person being removed.

Voting and Organization Structure

CCNF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Columnists that post content at least once a month on average become voting members in the nonprofit and elect the board in annual elections. The board, in turn, acts as the gatekeeper, admitting only those columnists that can meet the CCNF columnist criteria. The board also hires the administrative and journalism staff.

Disclaimer: The rules and regulations of this organization are set out in the bylaws of Climate Change National Forum and Review (the official corporate name of CCNF). The above criteria and causes for removal are meant to explain and summarize – but not supplant or override – any of the bylaws. If there is a conflict between the bylaws and anything above, the bylaws will override what is above.



CCNF Funding Priorities



50K Annual Support

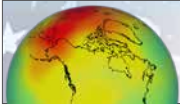
- o Executive Director employed part time;
- o Small budget for website maintenance;
- o Columnists are uncompensated; and
- o Donor mentioned on CCNF website and in collateral material.

100K Annual Support

- o Executive Director employed part time;
- o Director of Communications employed part time;
- o Small budget for website maintenance;
- o Columnists are uncompensated; and
- o Donor mentioned on CCNF website and in collateral material.

250K Annual Support

- o Executive Director employed full time;
- o Director of Communications employed part time;
- o Lead Science Journalist employed part time or by commission;
- o Modest budget for website improvements;



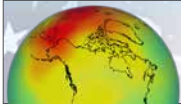
- o Most columnists are uncompensated; and
- o Donor mentioned on CCNF website and in collateral material.

500K Annual Support

- o Executive Director employed full time;
- o Director of Communications employed full time;
- o Lead Science Journalist employed full time;
- o Premium web site optimized for multiple platforms;
- o High-activity columnists are compensated, either directly or through institutional grants;
- o Outsource creation of graphics and multimedia content;
- o Commission monthly long-format educational pieces on the science being discussed;
- o Produce weekly podcasts with interviews and discussions on the latest science discussed in Phase I and the science and policy issues in Phase II; and policy developments and other topics of interest;
- o Host a modest annual Climate Change National Forum gathering and event for scientists, policy makers, corporate leaders, and the general public;
- o Donor mentioned prominently on CCNF website homepage and in collateral material; and
- o Special event for CCNF Donor to be determined.

1 Million in Annual Support

- o All of the above plus the activities listed below and staff to support them:
- o Engage in an independent, comprehensive, and transparent review of key aspects of the recent IPCC report by the CCNF Scientist Community (Phase I);
- o Prepare an annual report on climate change adaptation for industry and general public;
- o Host a premiere **Climate Change National Forum Annual Conference/public Members Meeting**;

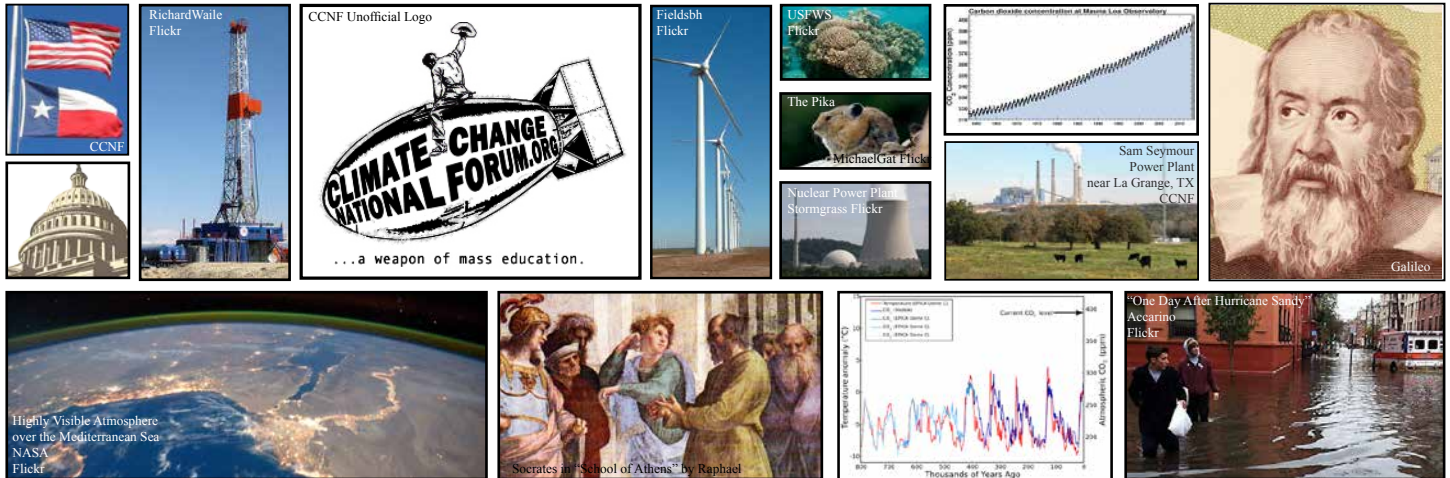


- o Develop a robust YouTube Channel and produce educational videos featuring interviews with leading scientists, policy makers, and corporate leaders to educate the general public on the latest developments in climate change and response;
- o Obtain permanent office and studio space;
- o Produce plain-language summaries of important topics targeted to specific age groups;
- o Become a leading source of journalism on climate science and later climate science and policy;
- o Donor mentioned prominently on CCNF website homepage and in collateral material; and
- o Special event for Donor to be determined.

3 Million in Annual Support

- o All of the above plus the activities listed below and staff to support them;
- o Host a premiere **Climate Change National Forum annual conference/members meeting and trade show**;
- o Produce annual analyses of the state of the science of climate change, as relevant to policy-making, assessments of climate risks, and later, critical evaluation of policy ideas and options at the personal, industrial, and governmental levels;
- o Establish a studio and lecture hall that will feature ongoing debates on the policy implications of climate change with high profile policy makers on both sides of the aisle presenting and debating the benefits and costs of possible responses (this content will be run on ClimateChangeNationalForum.org and all its attendant platforms);
- o Dispatch reporters worldwide to report on the state of the art of climate science and global developments, and tell interesting climate stories that tie in with the Forum's content;
- o Conduct additional special projects and research to fill knowledge gaps identified through CCNF;
- o Donor mentioned prominently on CCNF website homepage and in collateral material; and
- o Special event for Donor to be determined.

CCNF Social Media Channels: (Twitter handle: @ClimateChangeNF)



CCNF Corporate and Contact Information

Corporate Name:
Climate Change National Forum and Review

'Climate Change National Forum and Review' is the official corporate name of CCNF. Climate Change National Forum and Review is doing business as 'Climate Change National Forum' and claims trademark on both names.

Website:
ClimateChangeNationalForum.org

EIN#:
45-4570998

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