

Climate Change In Wisconsin: An Activity Guide



The Department of Natural Resources is putting the finishing touches on a brand new Climate Change activity guide for teachers. Below you can read a brief description of the sections of the guide and the related activities. These activities were written with consideration to high school curriculum needs (7th - 12th grades) and are all correlated to Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. To reserve your copy of this new resource, please e-mail your name and full mailing address to: DNRAirEducation@wisconsin.gov. Once the guide is ready (January 2009), it will be mailed to you promptly.



Introduction and Background: A general background about climate change and about the guide.

Section One: What is Climate?: In this section we introduce the idea of climate and how scientists estimate climate from many years ago

- *Weather vs. Climate:* 2 activities that help students understand the difference between weather and climate
- *Analyzing Ice Cores:* 1 activity that uses hands on ice core analysis to illustrate one way scientists get long-term climate data



Section Two: Ecosystem Impacts of Climate Change in Wisconsin: In this section we look at why climate change matters and how it might change our natural world

- *Ecosystem Phenology Changes:* Using observations to see how climate can affect species and ecosystems
- *Blending the Ecosystems:* Thinking about impacts of climate change, especially in special niches at the edges and overlaps of different ecosystems

Section Three: Causes of Climate Change: In this section we look at what pollutants cause climate change and what are the sources of those pollutants

- *The Chemistry of Climate Change:* 3 activities that look at what pollution is, what are its sources and how do you calculate how much is being emitted
- *Power to the People:* An activity that looks at the role energy use plays in climate change
- *How Green are You?:* An activity that allows students to evaluate their own lifestyles and contributions, focusing on positive action to lessen contributions to climate change



Section Four: Social and Cultural Perspectives on Climate Change: In this section we explore the varying perspectives on climate change and the potential impact of climate change on people and society

- *Climate Change in the News*: An activity that compares news papers (or other news sources) from different locations and how they each cover this topic
- *Community Conversation*: An activity that creates a discussion among different characters in a community to explore how climate change will impact each of them – also tries to illustrate using dialog instead of debate to explore issues and the complexity and social aspects of these complex problems

Section Five: What Can I Do?: Here we give students hands-on opportunities to get involved and make a difference

- *Science Inspires Art Inspires Society*: An activity build off the Paradise Lost exhibit that results in climate change-inspired art projects
- *Artsy Activism*: A service learning activity in which students create an advocacy campaign around some aspect of climate change, possibly building off their "science inspires art" project.
- *Tree of Pledges*: An activity in which participants make a pledge and put a "leaf" on a tree with their pledge.



Electronic Appendix: Electronic files, links, samples and other things too cumbersome or too likely to get dated to put in a printed guide. This resource will be updated regularly.

To reserve your copy of *Climate Change in Wisconsin: An Activity Guide*, please e-mail DNRAirEducation@wisconsin.gov, or call Lindsay Haas at (262) 574-2113. Visit the DNR's education page: <http://dnr.wi.gov/education/> for information on other programs and resources DNR has to offer.