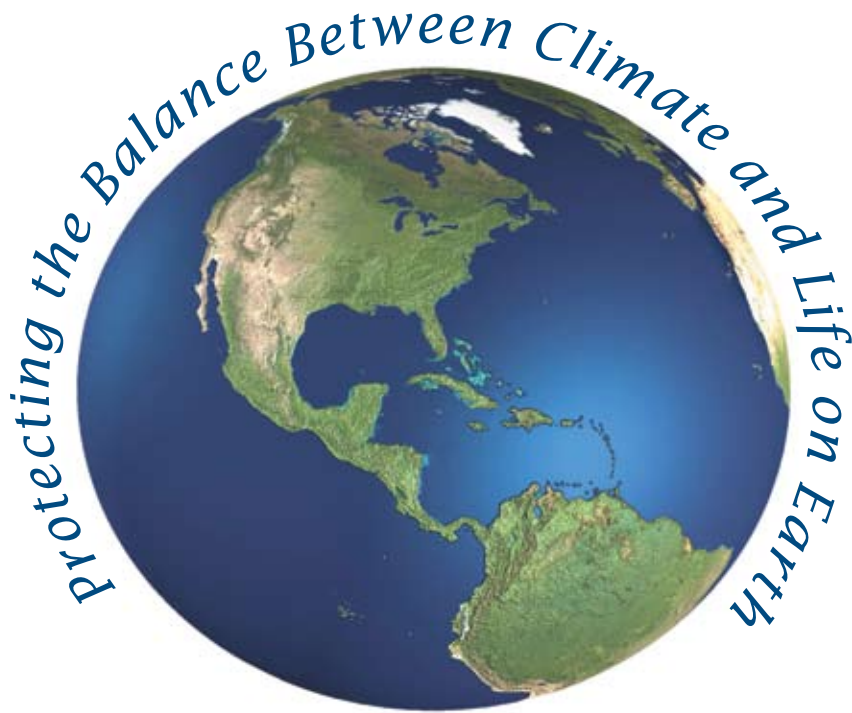




# CLIMATE INSTITUTE

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

# 20



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**CLIMATE INSTITUTE**

**T**he Climate Institute is an international leader in moving nations, regions, and people to address climate change in a collaborative manner and protect the balance between climate and life on earth. Founded in 1986, the Institute was the first non-profit organization established primarily to address climate change issues. It has distinguished itself around the world by promoting global climate balance with practical and cooperative approaches.



Working with an extensive network of experts and alliances in the United States and internationally, the Climate Institute is uniquely positioned to inform key decision makers, heighten international awareness of climate change, and identify practical ways of achieving significant emissions reductions. Scientists, policy leaders, and media around the world recognize the Institute as a valuable source of reliable and objective information.



The Climate Institute builds international awareness of climate change and identifies practical ways of achieving significant emissions reductions by

- organizing symposia, conferences, roundtables, and special briefings, which have previously been convened in the U.S., Europe, Japan, Canada, Australia, and over 30 developing countries
- building capacity to respond to climate impacts such as more intense tropical storms through means including improved coastal management in island nations
- working with the governments, institutions and communities to reduce their carbon footprint by utilizing energy efficient and renewable energy technologies
- providing online information on climate change and serving as a forum for fostering cooperation internationally and across various sectors within the U.S.

The Climate Institute receives financial support from membership, private and corporate contributions, and grants, providing services for government agencies and nonprofit organizations. The Institute is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable educational organization.

**THE CHALLENGE**

**T**he impacts of climate change are numerous. For the past thousands of years the Earth's climate has fluctuated. A shift of a few degrees in the global temperatures has transformed a world covered by glaciers to a world without glaciers at all, and this cycle has repeated. Today, this cycle continues; however, at a speed unknown to the past. With human's influence, it now only takes decades for changes that once took millennia. What these changes could mean, to Earth, to ecosystems, to humans must be considered, and we believe be acted upon.

As greenhouse gases increasingly make up a larger part of our atmosphere more and more energy is absorbed into Earth's system from the sun. This addition of energy contributes to the melting of glaciers and expansion of the oceans which results in sea level rise. Additionally, this influx of fresh water and CO2 will change the salinity and acidity of the oceans potentially slowing, or stopping currents, and destroying the coral reefs. Species extinctions could accelerate, and more intense storms could become more likely. Low elevation islands and coastal areas could disappear underwater. Future generations would have to deal with the problems their ancestors helped create.



*Global mean sea level is projected to rise by 0.09 to 0.88 m between the years 1990 and 2100, for the full range of SRES scenarios, but with significant regional variations... Tens of millions of people living in deltas, in low-lying coastal areas, and on small islands will face risk of displacement." (IPCC)*

*"The projected concentration of CO2 in the year 2100 ranges from 540 to 970 ppm, compared to about 280 ppm in the pre-industrial era and about 368 ppm in the year 2000." (IPCC)*

**R**enewable energy provides hope for the future. The world's demand for energy will continue to increase dramatically during the next century even with energy efficiency improvements. Most of today's power comes from fossil fuels, which many countries, notably the United States, must import from other countries. Renewable energy sources –biomass, geothermal, hydro, solar, tidal, wind— offer great promise throughout the world, not only in generating clean energy, but also to improve local health, develop local jobs, and increase national security.

Even with these benefits, renewable energy faces many challenges. Renewables generally have a higher up front cost. We at the Climate Institute try to promote renewable energy in regions where it is most practical, those places in which it is a cost effective option, and where it confers many local benefits. Every watt of renewable power is one step on the long road to mitigating the consequences of climate change. Every gallon of alternative fuel for vehicles is another important step.



**THE PRESENT – CURRENT PROJECTS**



**Small islands can make a huge difference:** Climate Institute is working with several members of the Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS) on a global program to assist the island nations in their efforts to transform their energy systems from a fossil fuel base to renewables. Global Sustainable Energy Islands Initiative (GSEII), a consortium of international NGOs and multi-lateral institutions was established in 2000 to assist the small island developing nations in adopting sustainable energy systems compatible with their economies. The small islands states are least responsible and most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. These islands in most cases are dependent on expensive imports of fossil fuels; nearly all are geographically suited to take advantage of the natural and renewable energy resources, such as wind, solar, geothermal and biomass. Currently this program is active in St. Lucia, Dominica, Grenada, and St. Kitts & Nevis in the Caribbean, and the Marshall Islands and Fiji in the Pacific.

**Spinning the web can capture minds.** The Climate Institute is supporting its work in other countries with outreach through the world wide web. An online catalogue, by country and region, is being created of climate- focused organizations throughout the world. On a more local level, the Climate Institute is working to facilitate greening of college campuses using an informational site as well as an online forum. Climate.org has become a heavily visited resource on climate science, potential impacts and workable responses. Recently it has also highlighted ferment in the popular culture- cartoons, videos, films, and religious activism-related to climate.

**Moving the science to a higher level.** The Institute and its Mexican partner, SIMA, are literally doing that, building the world's highest altitude climate observatory on a mountain in Mexico. The Observatory will track CO2 and UV levels and dust particles from Africa and the Amazon. Instruments and computer equipment have been obtained and architectural plans completed. Construction should start in early 2007. The Institute's Chief Scientist played a key role in the Arctic Climate Impacts Assessment and the Institute is active in outreach efforts on Arctic impacts.



**Supporting state and local government innovation.** The Climate Institute is helping state and local governments to identify their energy efficiency and renewable energy needs and to chart a clear course of action. The Institute has helped educate state and local officials, community leaders, businesses and utilities in using clean energy partnership programs to achieve air quality improvements, pollution prevention and economic development. Recent efforts have sought to leverage Federal and State incentives to foster use of biomass for fuel, power and for making of chemicals, plastics and cellulose fiber.

**Encouraging young environmental leaders.** Over 150 students and recent graduates from twenty nations have interned at the Climate Institute; many have become environmental leaders. In 2002 the Institute in cooperation with the Class of 1964 of Dartmouth College set up an environmental leadership program in memory of Gordon MacDonald, an Institute Board member who founded Dartmouth's Environmental Studies Program. Since then several hundred students from Dartmouth and other colleges have participated in informal dinner discussions hosted by the Institute with Washington policy hands and visiting experts. The program has also placed several students abroad for work or research opportunities.

**THE FUTURE — THE THIRD DECADE CAMPAIGN**

**T**he Climate Institute has earned a reputation as a bridge between the scientific and policymaking communities, and as a catalyst in stimulating cooperative action both in the U.S. and internationally. As the Institute prepares to enter its third decade, it seeks to build on its strengths developed over 20 years in shaping and implementing a strategy to move the world toward climate stabilization through two major initiatives, the International Leadership Alliance for Climate Stabilization and an Outreach on Climate Change Science and Impacts.

1) The **International Leadership Alliance for Climate Stabilization** will be the keystone of the Climate Institute's Third Decade Campaign. The Alliance will build upon and expand the Institute's previous work in explaining the risks of climate change and how best to manage those risks. Since 2000, the Institute has been the managing partner of the Global Sustainable Energy Islands Initiative. This Initiative is assisting six island nations to prepare and implement sustainable energy plans and has already resulted in several multi-million dollar implementation projects. The International Leadership Alliance for Climate Stabilization will



- Expand the Islands Initiative to as many as 12 island states; assist these island nations to develop more comprehensive climate protection plans (coastal management, hurricane preparedness, and emergency planning); and maintain synergy in such planning.
- Launch a state/provincial governments' leadership initiative on climate change and sustainable energy for states/provinces in populous developing nations. Climate protection and sustainable energy plans and their implementation will occur in up to five states/provinces in the first three years. Dialogue is in progress with interested states in Mexico, Brazil, Pakistan, India, and Indonesia.

2) The **Outreach on Climate Change Science and Impacts** program will provide up-to-date and reliable information on climate change and facilitate action. This involves

- Reaching the policy community in the Washington, DC, area through a series of conferences, symposia, and briefings.
- Serving as an intermediary between the participating island nations/states/provinces and private sector groups in North America, Europe, Australia, and Japan, including community organizations, religious groups, universities, and other civic groups; regional institutions; and international institutions that can provide resources necessary to implement sustainable energy and climate protection plans.
- Building www.climate.org into one of the most user-friendly Internet sources on the risks of climate change and a guide to the extensive information available on the Internet on climate science and mitigation strategies.



AOSIS has a membership of 43 States and observers, drawn from all oceans and regions of the world: Africa, Caribbean, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, Pacific and South China Sea. Thirty-seven are members of the United Nations, close to 28 percent of developing countries, and 20 percent of the UN's total membership.

## THE PAST - CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS



Climate Institute Board of Directors and Board of Advisors Members meeting at Green College, Oxford University, April 1992.

**In its 20 years of existence the Climate Institute has been a catalyst in moving the world to address climate change in a cooperative manner.** It is one of the leading international NGOs of scientists and policy leaders concerned with climate change and protection of the stratospheric ozone layer.

The Climate Institute has registered many firsts - organizing the first broad scale climate change conference in **North America** in 1987, the first climate change symposium for UN missions in 1988, and the first major climate conference in the **Middle East** in 1989 in Cairo, Egypt. From 1991-1992, it organized climate change briefings for heads of state and Cabinet ministers in **22 nations** and helped lay the groundwork for the signing of the Framework Convention on Climate Change in Rio de Janeiro.

Over the next two years it coordinated a team of 60 experts from a dozen nations in carrying out studies of climate vulnerability and response options in eight Asian nations - Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. This study caused President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines in 1995 to convene an **Asia Pacific Leaders Summit** on Climate Change, of which, the Institute was a co-organizer. Later that same year the Institute published **Environmental Exodus**, the most comprehensive study to date of the emerging environmental refugee challenge.

At the request of the Asian Parliamentarians' group, the Climate Institute developed a concept paper proposing an international public-private partnership to promote "greenhouse benign energy." Drawing on the example of the computer and telecommunications revolutions, the Institute proposed an emphasis on scaling up markets for **clean energy** with special focus on the needs of two billion people lacking access to electricity.

In April 2000, the Institute was instrumental in the convening of a Summit in Seattle that pulled together pioneers in the computer, telecommunications and energy fields to see how a global **clean energy revolution** could adapt the models of these other high tech revolutions. The **Seattle Summit** also addressed ways the US Pacific Northwest and British Columbia might lead a clean energy revolution.

In July 2000, the G-8 embraced the notion of an international **public-private partnership** to speed the emergence of renewable energy. It created a Renewable Energy Task Force at the initiative of the British Prime Minister, who championed an idea advanced to him by the Institute's Chairman, **Sir Crispin**

**Tickell.** A landmark report published by the Task Force in July 2001 provides a detailed blueprint for the partnership initially advanced in Manila in 1995.

For the past seven years the Climate Institute has also championed coordinated strategies for climate and air quality. In September 1999, it convened a North American Symposium in **Mexico City** to map how strategies for climate and air quality protection can be carried out in a harmonized manner. Mexico City has already begun to implement such a strategy and New Hampshire, in 2002, became the first US state to enact such a law.

Additionally, since 1998, the Climate Institute has worked closely with a number of **small island nations** to enhance their capacity to respond to climate change. This effort has evolved into a Global Sustainable Energy Islands Initiative (**GSEII**) helping several island nations to transform their energy systems to be less carbon-based and less expensive.

In January 2006, at the Mauritius meeting of island state leaders, the Institute announced the broadening of this initiative to encompass work on coastal protection, adaptation, and emergency preparedness. This **Endangered Islands Campaign** will seek to enhance the capacity of island states to transform their energy systems and become more resilient to withstand the adverse impacts of climate change. This will also match island states with experienced institutions in North and South America as well as encourage religious and civic groups, colleges and universities in the US, Canada, Australia and the UK to provide carbon offsets and technical assistance to island nations and other developing countries pioneering climate protection measures.

Over the past ten years the Climate Institute has worked with EPA and DOE to build and expand their state and local government partnerships and provided technical assistance to incorporate Energy Star technologies and other energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies in new capital projects and overall development plans. This effort has resulted in their adopting policies and programs such as emissions reductions and economic development and helped local policy and community leaders realize the most cost-effective and comprehensive ways to address issues such as affordable housing, jobs, disaster preparedness, revitalization of brownfields, environmental protection, and energy efficiency.

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*The Climate Institute's  
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and the Board of Advisors come  
from 24 different countries.*



Informal Climate Institute Board discussion in hotel during April 1992 meeting at Green College, Oxford University.

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The Climate Institute has worked with over 40 different countries.

**CLIMATE INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES 1986-2006**



- NORTH AMERICAN PROJECTS**
- Chesapeake Bay (Washington College, Chesterfield Maryland), October 1996;
  - New Jersey Shore (Toms River, New Jersey), September 1997;
  - New England (Yale University), April 1998;
  - Delaware/Hudson Region (Ramapo College, New Jersey), April 1998;
  - Mississippi River Valley (St. Louis), June 1998;
  - South Atlantic/Caribbean Region (Florida International University), December 1998;
  - Pacific Northwest/British Columbia (Seattle), April 2000.

154 nations signed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992; since then, that number has risen to 189.



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