

Understanding Climate Change



James Hansen

Adjunct Professor, Earth Institute and Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences

CURRENT RESEARCH

Dr. James Hansen's rigorous study of climate change and its implications

Despite recent interest in climate change, the public and policymakers are not well informed about the status of understanding and the implications of that understanding. It is essential therefore to realize that stabilization of climate is possible and does not need to be costly. Indeed there would be many economic advantages in moving promptly to clean energies. The barriers however, include the fact that there are so many parties affected by energy policies that the cacophony can make it difficult for the public and even policymakers, to understand what is necessary. In this situation, broad-based unbiased scientific analysis, communicated clearly, is crucial.

Dr. James Hansen, of Columbia University, is working to analyze and understand the physics of climate change and then to communicate the unbiased scientific knowledge he gathers to the public in a way that is understandable. It is his philosophy that it is necessary for scientists to connect the dots all the way from the causes of climate change to the implications for public policy. His research investigates the consequences of alternative energy pathways with a broad approach that employs analysis of Earth's climate history, use of climate simulations, and analysis of modern observations of on-going climate change today.

Dr. Hansen has demonstrated scientific rigor coupled with the courage to tell policymakers and the public the truth about the current situation of our planet. He has had a major hand in founding and developing several organizations including, 350.org, Citizens Climate Lobby, and Our Children's Trust. His first book, Storms of My Grandchildren highlighted the importance of action in light of climate change and his...

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AFFILIATION



Columbia University

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Physics 1967 , University of Iowa
- M.S. in Astronomy 1965 , University of Iowa
- B.S. in Physics and Mathematics 1963 , University of Iowa

AWARDS

- NASA Distinguished Service Medal 2013
- Foreign Policy designation as one of its Top 100 Global Thinkers, 2012
- Blue Planet Prize, Asahi Glass Foundation, 2010
- Sophie Prize for Environmental and Sustainable Development, 2010

RESEARCH AREAS

Environment, Atmospheric / Space, Clean Energy, Natural Disasters / Emergency

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the continued research of Dr. Hansen as he analyzes and understands the physics of climate change and then communicates the unbiased scientific knowledge he gathers to the public, helping to form public policy. Your donations will support the necessary one million dollars per year that will allow his team to reach their full potential to inform the public, file legal actions that pressure governments to do their jobs, and thus just possibly impact the course of history.