

UNIVERSITY COLLABORATION TO LOCALIZE CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUE

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RELEVANCE

When people think about the effects of climate change, many still picture that iconic lone polar bear clinging to a shrinking iceberg. But many don't realize that the impacts we will face here at home could also be severe, directly affecting our food supply, our health, and our environment.

RESPONSE

The Ohio State University Climate Change Outreach Team, formed in 2008 with 10 university departments, provides regional climate information to government officials, academia, non-profit groups, industry, and the public. Three major projects:

- the monthly *Global Change, Local Impact* webinar series
- climate education materials for teachers and informal educators
- an online repository of regional climate information for multi-user types (June 2013)

RESULTS

Global Change, Local Impact webinar series

- 28 webinars from leading climate experts, archived at ChangingClimate.osu.edu
- high attendance (averaging 300 per webinar)
- 7,100 attendees representing 500 organizations from around the globe
- partnerships with the CDC, Great Lakes Regional Water Program, NOAA, the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network and others

Great Lakes Climate Change Curriculum

- 8 topic areas, 13 activities from graphing to experiments, more to come
- introduced to more than 200 educators in workshops, conferences, and online presentations
- 800 individual lesson downloads

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of commenting participants
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an unbiased resource to help
understand how climate change
could affect local concerns.



#1 SUCCESS

Global Change, Local Impact webinar series

Participants say the webinars act as a primary resource for climate-related information in the region, with 80-90% commenting they use this information as an unbiased resource to help understand how climate change could affect local concerns like public health, agriculture, and infrastructure, and how they can prepare for it. It has been an extremely successful way to get leading research information out to the public who may never before have had access to it.

Great Lakes Climate Change Curriculum

80% of educators have indicated that they will use the curriculum activities in their educational setting (K-12 or informal education setting) and/or share them with colleagues. Before this, there was no curriculum that incorporated climate impacts as they relate to the Great Lakes region.

#1 CHALLENGE

Global Change, Local Impact webinar series

Ensuring the correct balance between technical information and general accessibility is essential to maintaining high and diverse attendance while continuing to invite speakers who can provide new perspectives on climate change impacts.

Great Lakes Climate Change Curriculum

Development of the curriculum is challenging because of a lack of Great Lakes specific materials to build upon. Research and data are available, but are often not in an easily used format, requiring complete development of new lesson plans and activities that follow current pedagogy standards in addition to collecting and curating the information.