

2008 Behavior, Energy and Climate Change Conference Roundtable Abstract

19. What are the Best Means of Motivating & Mobilizing Individual & Corporate Action on Climate Change?

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Abstract: Climate is changing due to human influences. Thus far we have been unable to reduce our impacts in any substantial way. Our communities are unprepared for the changes that are already occurring and will become more extreme in the coming years and decades. Current global emissions of CO₂ are higher than the IPCC business as usual scenarios. No part of the world's energy infrastructure is successfully decarbonizing. And energy trends are poised to continue their upward trajectory. Clearly, the time to massively mitigate emissions and prepare to adapt to the inevitable changes is upon us. This session will examine best practices at engaging corporations, consumers and communities in both climate mitigation and adaptation. We will examine efforts by groups such as the Carbon Disclosure Project to motivate corporations to track and reduce emitted and embedded greenhouse gases in products and services, at research by the Climate Research Network to study the role consumers play in this nation's carbon footprint, at the Personal Sustainability Practices developed by Act Now Productions to engage over 500,000 Wal-Mart associates in healthier, more sustainable lifestyles, at the efforts of ICLEI to help municipalities conduct inventories of their greenhouse gas emissions and develop Climate Action Plans, and at the emerging "re-localization" movement which has focused on preparing communities to be more self-sufficient. How such best practices can be scaled rapidly up on local to global scales will be the primary focus of this roundtable discussion.