Seeing Climate, Seeing Change

Abstract

If seeing is believing, then how do you show people this phenomenon called climate change? And how do you prove that recent extreme events may be partially a result of global warming? This talk will explore the difficulties of communicating the science of climate change and look at the current state of public perception. Beginning with a brief history lesson, this talk will provide an overview of past, present, and future climate change. This talk will also reflect on the need to improve our ability to visualize climate change as well as provide examples of the energy infrastructure changes we need to solve the problem of global warming.

Biography

Dr. Heidi M. Cullen, Vice President for External Communications
Chief Climatologist, Climate Central
In addition to her responsibilities as Vice President for External Communications, Dr. Heidi Cullen serves as Chief Climatologist for Climate Central - a non-profit science journalism organization headquartered in Princeton, NJ. Before joining Climate Central, where she reports on climate and energy issues, Dr. Cullen served as The Weather Channel’s first on-air climate expert and helped create Forecast Earth, a weekly television series focused on issues related to climate change and the environment. Prior to that Dr. Cullen worked as a research scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, CO. She received the NOAA Climate & Global Change Fellowship and spent two years at Columbia University’s International Research Institute for Climate and Society working to apply long-range climate forecasts to the water resources sector in Brazil and Paraguay. She is a member of the American Geophysical Union, the American Meteorological Society and the Society of Environmental Journalists. Dr. Cullen also serves as a member of the NOAA Science Advisory Board. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from Columbia University and went on to receive a Ph.D. in climatology and ocean-atmosphere dynamics at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University. Dr. Cullen is the author of The Weather of the Future published in August of 2010 by Harper Collins and is a Visiting Lecturer at Princeton University.