



NEWSLETTER

Climate Change Futures

The Center's new report was released on November 1, 2005



We are pleased to announce the release of *Climate Change Futures: Health, Ecological and Economic Dimensions*, the culminating report of a three-year project led by the Center for Health and the Global Environment and co-sponsored by Swiss Re and the United Nations Development Programme.

The project was designed to examine the physical and health risks of climate instability. Previously, little had been done to integrate the current understanding of climate change and ecosystem degradation with projections for public health, the value of biological resources and the long-term security of investments.

The final Climate Change Futures report, released November 1, 2005 at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, shows that climate change will significantly affect the health of humans and ecosystems and these impacts will have economic consequences. Through the use of trends, case studies and scenarios, the report surveys existing and future costs associated with climate change and the growing potential for abrupt, widespread impacts. To download the full report or the Executive Summary for Policy makers please visit our website at <http://chge.med.harvard.edu/research/ccf/>. The results and implications of Climate Change Futures were also presented at a briefing in Washington, DC on November 8, 2005. See <http://chge.med.harvard.edu/education/policy/domestic/briefings/> for details.



Corporate Council News

All four of our corporate council members were recognized at the inaugural Low Carbon Leaders Awards. The Awards, supported by the Climate Group, were presented on December 7th at a ceremony during the COP11/MOP1 meeting in Montreal.



BP and 3M were honored as Low Carbon Leaders of the decade, J&J was named as the company making the greatest percent reduction in green house gas emissions of any company worldwide in one year (2004), and Swiss Re was honored as a Low Carbon Finance and Investment Leader. Read more about the awards here <http://www.theclimategroup.org/index.php?pid=749>.



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZEN AWARD

Former Vice President Al Gore was chosen as the recipient of the Center’s 2005 Global Environmental Citizen Award. Center Board Member Meryl Streep presented him with the award at a ceremony held on October 21, 2005 at the Carriage House Center for the Arts in New York City.

The event featured local and environmentally sustainable cuisine prepared by Master chefs Peter Hoffman, Nora Pouillon and Michel Nischan. Eco-friendly fashion was also featured throughout the evening with Meryl Streep and Center staff modeling clothes made from sustainable materials by designer Linda Loudermilk.



Michel Nischan’s corn succotash soup made with huitlacoche, a fungus (*Ustilago maydis*) that grows naturally on corn and is considered a delicacy in Mexico.

“It is an honor to receive this award from the Center for Health and the Global Environment,” said Gore. “The Center has led the way in providing critical evidence about how global environmental change threatens our health and the health of our children. It is now time for all of us to rise to the occasion of addressing global warming. The warnings have been given clearly, and the time to act is now. We cannot afford to wait any longer,” he said.

ANNUAL RETREAT

The Center’s annual retreat for it’s faculty, staff, advisory board and corporate council members was held at the Glynwood Center in Cold Spring, NY, September 23-25, 2005. The theme of this year’s retreat was *Why Don’t People Get It? Overcoming Barriers to Understanding the Environmental Crisis*.



Center guests Cornelia Dean, a science writer for the *New York Times*, and David Suzuki, Chair of the Suzuki Foundation and an award winning scientist, environmentalist and Canadian television broadcaster gave presentations and led discussions on this theme.

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

The Center held a briefing in the Capitol on January 23, 2006 entitled *How Science Works and How Can Science Most Effectively Inform Policy?* Eric Chivian introduced presenters Donald Kennedy, Editor in Chief of *Science* and Harvey V. Fineberg, President of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. For more information please visit: <http://chge.med.harvard.edu/education/policy/domestic/briefings/science/sciencebrief.html>.

The Center’s Eighth Annual Congressional Course *Environmental Change: The Science and Human Health Impacts*, will be held April 18-19, 2006 at the Comos Club in Washington, DC. The course is designed to present the latest global environmental change and human health science to policy makers. To view the preliminary schedule and pre-register please visit <http://chge.med.harvard.edu/education/policy/domestic/course/index.html>.



The Center’s multi-disciplinary course *Human Health and Global Environmental Change* begins February 2 and runs through May 11 at Harvard Medical School. The course, now in its ninth year, draws students from Harvard University, MIT, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts and the BU Science Journalism Program. It is also open to members of the public. Visit http://chge.med.harvard.edu/education/course_2006/index.html for a detailed agenda.