The World Science Summit on Climate Engineering: 
Future Guiding Principles and Ethics

**Background:** The inability of the global community to effectively limit or roll back greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions continues to undermine the ability to minimize impacts of global climate change and has led to serious speculation about the need for engineering the climate. Climate engineering, just to mitigate against the temperature increases predicted by the mid to late part of the current century, opens our planet to many potentially hazardous and dangerous unknowns. In order to manage the risks and limit “larger scale” experiments with trans-boundary implications, we need to establish new and innovative perspectives on the development of global principles and ethics pertaining to climate engineering. Strong pleas are growing for governments to develop governance structures to oversee the emerging R&D activities involving climate modification at scale by individual scientists or countries.

**Objectives of the Summit:** We will engage the global scientific community, including world class men and women scientists, to bring new and innovative perspectives to the development of global principles and ethics – encompassing the potential social, ecological, and economic effects on climate engineering. This forum is viewed as an important follow-on of the “Geoengineering the Climate” report of the Royal Society, the Asilomar International Conference on Climate Intervention Technologies, and subsequent discussions of governance structures for engineering the climate.

**Expected Impact of the Summit:** From your Summit participation and involvement, we will take the next critical step of defining what is and is not acceptable for scientists to pursue as members of the scientific community. We will create a set of the guiding principles for climate engineering research. We will circulate these principles to the broad scientific community, for endorsement by their professional societies and associations. We aim to include the broadest cross-section of the scientific community to define the scope and scale of climate engineering research that can be reasonably pursued and why. We will identify the research that falls outside those boundaries, requiring world scale formal governance structures, strictures and instruments to implement.

**Date:** 2-3 December 2014

**Venue:** U.S. National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington DC

**Organizing Committee**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Paul M Bertsch</td>
<td>(Chair) CSSP, CSIRO, Australia, and University of Kentucky, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carlos Nobre</td>
<td>Brazilian National Space Research Institute, Brazil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Apple</td>
<td>(co-Chair) CSSP and University of California-Berkeley, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynn Russell</td>
<td>University of California, San Diego, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Geissman</td>
<td>(co-Chair) CSSP and University of Texas-Dallas, USA</td>
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<td>Mark Stafford-Smith</td>
<td>CSIRO, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellen Bergfeld</td>
<td>ASA-CSSA-SSSA, USA</td>
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<td>Ester Szeitn</td>
<td>National Academy of Sciences, USA</td>
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<td>Clifford Duke</td>
<td>ESA, USA</td>
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<td>Diana H Wall</td>
<td>Colorado State University, USA</td>
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<td>Rob Jackson</td>
<td>Stanford University, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anya Waite</td>
<td>Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany</td>
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<td>Craig James</td>
<td>CSIRO Australia</td>
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Confirmed Participants

Richard Alley  
Pennsylvania State University, USA

Martin Apple  
University of California-Berkeley, USA

Paulo Artaxo  
Instituto de Física, University of São Paulo, Brazil

Inés Camilloni  
University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Robert W Howarth  
Cornell University, USA

Rattan Lal  
The Ohio State University, USA

Hong Liao  
Institute for Atmospheric Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, PRC

Jane Long  
University of California-Berkeley, USA

Thomas Lovejoy  
George Mason University, Brazil and USA

Michael C. MacCracken  
Climate Institute, USA

Marcia K. McNutt  
American Association for the Advancement of Science, USA

David Morrow  
University of Alabama-Birmingham, USA

Steve Rayner  
Oxford University, UK

Gene Takle  
Iowa State University, USA

Simone Tilmes  
National Center for Atmospheric Research, USA

Focus Areas

Atmospheric sciences  
Agricultural sciences and food security  
Earth sciences  
Ecosystems and biodiversity  
Human health implications  
Meteorological sciences  
Nexus of Ethics, Economics and Environment  
Ocean sciences  
Resource economics  
Social science and governance

Participation in the Summit: Registration is limited so please contact the CSSP office at John@Sciencepres.org or Paul Bertsch (paul.bertsch@csiro.au) of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents to express your interest in attending. Please also visit www.cssp.us for additional information regarding participation, registration, and housing.

The summit is endorsed by the International Council for Science (ICSU)