

Climate Change and Agriculture

As we come ever closer to the COP15 gathering in Copenhagen, I thought I would pass along a few links that expand upon the role of agriculture in mitigating climate change. And also a few that address the profound impact climate change will have on global agriculture. The movement to address climate change, both through mitigation and adaptation, continues to build steam. Here are a few resources to act locally and have a global impact.



From Local to Global

Locally, the Southeast Environmental Education Alliance (SEEAL - www.seeal.org) has been leading the way with their Southcoast Climate Change Challenge Campaign. In collaboration with 3rd Eye Unlimited they have produced a video that is being used to make presentations to local high schools in the area. You can view the video on [youtube](http://youtube.com).

Lester Brown, formerly of the Worldwatch Institute and now with the Earth Policy Institute (www.earth-policy.org) has recently published *Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization*. The book is available as a free .pdf download or inexpensive \$14 paperback. Brian Walsh of Time sees *Plan B* as "a great blueprint for combating climate change."

James E. Hansen - <http://www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/> - homepage of one of the premier climate change scientists.

Follow climate legislation in the United States at the Pew Center on Global Climate Change – www.pewclimate.org. Energy legislation has been pushed down the agenda as congress works on a health care bill, but it will likely be up for debate early 2010.

Globally, 350.org continues to be a leader by inspiring creative action focusing on climate change. The Climate-L (climate-l.org) website is another great resource to track international happenings.

Greenhouse Gases, but What about Water Vapor?

Michael D'Aleo and Stephen Edelglass offer critical thought regarding climate modification on the regional level in their article "Water, Energy, and Global Warming" available at www.sensri.org.

Climate Justice:

The reality that climate change and market based mitigation strategies may most adversely affect those most marginalized by society needs to be at the forefront of all considerations going forward. The Climate Justice movement is an absolute critical part of any solution. Here are 3 links to get you started...

An Orion Magazine (www.orionmagazine.org) article by Tom Athanasiou, "[Climate Justice: To Solve the Climate Crisis, We Have To Tackle Poverty.](http://www.orionmagazine.org)"

A Podcast by [Michael Dorsey of Dartmouth College](http://www.dartmouth.edu) focusing on his new project the Climate Justice Research Project – (20 minutes) available at www.dartmouth.edu

and finally a link to the [Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative](http://www.ejcc.org) – www.ejcc.org

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Climate Change and Agriculture Resources – November 2009

Whether its CO₂ emission from the transportation of food (food miles), NO₂ from the nitrification of fertilizers, and CH₄ from animal waste agriculture contributes a tremendous amount of greenhouse gases to our environment. Food choices, including eating less energy intensive diets, purchasing locally produced food, and supporting farming methods that build soil organic matter (which can act as a carbon sink) are agriculturally related contributions to solving climate change.

- Climate Change and Northeast Agriculture - <http://www.climateandfarming.org/> has a great array of resources to use for education around climate change and agriculture.
- ATTRA Publications (available at attar.ncat.org): [Agriculture, Climate Change, and Carbon Sequestration](#) - and [Comparing Energy Use in Conventional and Organic Cropping Systems](#)
- Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (www.IATP.org) - "[Identifying our Climate Footprint: Assessing and Reducing the Global Warming Impacts of Food and Agriculture in the U.S.](#)"
- [International Biochar Initiative](#) (www.biochar-international.org) - [Carbon Negative Farming Systems](#)
- Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture (www.leopold.iastate.edu) - [Understanding Common Terms Used in Discussions about Climate Change and Agriculture](#)
- Worldwatch Institute (www.worldwatch.org) - 2009 State of the World - [Chapter 3 - Farming and Land Use to Cool the Planet](#)

You Can be a Part of the Solution

- Eat Locally Grown Food – Visit the **Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership - SEMAP** (www.semaponline.org) online food guide for a listing of local farms.
- Compost your food waste. Visit the Brix Bounty Farm Blog for resources on home composting.
- Choose grass-fed and free range meat and dairy products
- Grow Your Own – Trade your Food Miles for Food Footsteps. The average bag of groceries travels more than 1500 miles from farm to plate in America (this number is even higher in the Northeast). Food grown in your backyard or community garden only travels a matter of footsteps. Visit Kitchen Gardeners International (www.kitchengardeners.org) for more information.
- Join us for our free **Roots Down - New Bedford** Wintertime Garden Planning Workshops held in January and February 2010. A 5-week series covering soil testing, seed starting, garden planning, and more. Exact schedule and times will be released in mid-December. Please contact the farm or visit our blog for more information.

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