

## The Asilomar International Conference On Climate Intervention Technologies

November 14, 2009

Dear Colleague:

This note is to make you aware of the Asilomar International Conference on Climate Intervention Technologies, which will be held 22-26 March 2010 at the Asilomar Conference Center in Monterey, California. This Conference is being convened to discuss and develop a set of voluntary guidelines, or best practices, for the least harmful and lowest risk conduct of research and testing of proposed climate intervention and geoengineering technologies. Both the scope and content of the guidelines will be considered, with aspects ranging from scientific and technical issues to those of transparency and governance. We are sending this note to you because of your interests and experience in this field.

The Conference was conceived and developed by the Climate Response Fund (CRF), which is a new, nonprofit foundation founded by Dr. Margaret Leinen (see [climateresponsefund.org](http://climateresponsefund.org)). Funding for the Conference is still being finalized; sources include government and philanthropic donors that will be publicly announced along with the Conference details around January 1. The donors, CRF, and the Climate Institute ([climate.org](http://climate.org)), which has convened the SOC, are all undertaking this effort because of their general interest in the welfare of the planet and none has a financial interest in the particulars of the technologies or the guidelines that are developed.

By agreement and organizational structure, the independent SOC has complete responsibility for the invitees, the agenda for and conduct of the meeting, and the guidelines that are to be developed by the Conference and, as necessary, finalized thereafter. The Asilomar Conference Center, which should have beautiful weather amidst spectacular surroundings at this time of year, has been chosen because it provides the informal setting that we believe will help to facilitate productive discussion among the diverse, international set of attendees.

Our intent is to have approximately 150 active participants to ensure both a broad balance of interests and expertise and a size that will allow for active participation in plenary sessions and breakout groups. To facilitate open discussion, the Conference will be held under Chatham House rule. Under the rule, no one may be quoted about what they say during the Conference without their permission. While the meeting will be open to the media under this rule, an embargo on disseminating the results of the discussion and interim progress toward the final statement outside of the Conference venue will also apply to both participants and the media until the end of the Conference. At the close of the Conference, there will be a press briefing, time for on-the-record interviews with the participants, and quoting of participants with their permission.

The Conference will begin with dinner and an evening panel session on March 22 that is being designed to set the stage for the discussions and development of the planned guidelines. The main discussion days of the Conference will be March 23-25, with a morning session on March 26 for plenary discussion of the final Conference statement. The detailed agenda is currently under development by the SOC, with plans for presentations and discussions in both breakout and plenary frameworks. Because of the importance of each part of the Conference, we would hope that all participants could attend its full duration.

In addition to a number of specially selected participants from around the world, it is expected that there will be a number of additional slots that the SOC plans to fill based on applications from the interested community. To submit an application to attend the Conference, please provide your (1) Name, (2) Affiliation, (3) Address, phone number, email address; (4) Area of general expertise; (5) Specific area of interest in geoengineering and, in a few sentences, the contribution that you would expect to make to the discussion and development of the guidelines at the Conference. The SOC will give high priority to those planning to attend the full Conference and who can offer unique or underrepresented perspectives.

While we have funding to provide some support for selected invitees, other participants will need to cover their travel, lodging, and meal costs (there is no registration fee for the Conference). Meal and lodging costs are linked together at the Asilomar Conference Center, and are expected to total from about \$625 to \$800, inclusive of taxes, for the full Conference duration. While reservations will need to be made directly with the Conference Center, reservations and participation in the Conference will need to be preapproved by the SOC). Regarding travel to the Conference, while it is possible to fly into Monterey, most convenient and low cost airfare is generally into San Jose (closest airport) or San Francisco International airports. There is shuttle/bus transportation available from San Jose and San Francisco to the Conference site, and we will be able to help coordinate such transportation for meeting participants.

Because the SOC will need time to consider applications and extend invitations to attend, we would appreciate receiving your application by December 31, 2009. Your application, including the indicated information, should be emailed to Ms. Corinne Kisner at the Climate Institute ([asilomar@climate.org](mailto:asilomar@climate.org)).

We appreciate your potential interest in this Conference and development of the guidelines.

Sincerely yours,



**Michael C. MacCracken**

Climate Institute, USA and Chair of the Scientific Organizing Committee of the Asilomar Conference

**Members of the Steering Committee**

**Scott Barrett**, Columbia University, USA

**Roger Barry**, World Data Center for Glaciology and University of Colorado, USA

**Paul Crutzen** (corresponding member), Max Planck Institute, Germany, and Scripps Institution of Oceanography, USA

**Steven Hamburg**, Chief Scientist, Environmental Defense Fund, USA

**Richard Lampitt**, National Oceanography Center and University of Southampton, UK

**Diana Liverman**, University of Arizona, US, and Oxford University, UK

**Thomas Lovejoy**, Heinz Center for Science and the Environment, USA

**Gordon McBean**, The University of Western Ontario, Canada

**John Shepherd**, National Oceanography Centre, University of Southampton, and Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, UK

**Stephen Seidel**, Pew Center on Global Climate Change, USA

**Richard Somerville**, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego, USA

**Tom M. L. Wigley**, University of Adelaide, Australia