



## Climate Change Science, Communication, and Action

### Online Course Overview and Syllabus

Course dates: September 11—September 30, 2017

Registration Link: [https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe5/form/SV\\_d68I902D6SPzts1](https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe5/form/SV_d68I902D6SPzts1)

## COURSE OVERVIEW

**Participants.** Cooperative Extension Educators, Master Volunteers, and Cooperative Extension partners in the NE Region

**Cost.** Free

**Certificates.** *Achievement Certificate* awarded to those who complete course weekly assignments. *Expert Certificate* awarded to those who complete weekly assignments and final project.

### Course Objectives

Participants will:

1. Increase their understanding of climate change science and communication strategies.
2. Make new connections and share resources as part of an online network of Extension educators and master volunteers.
3. Enhance their climate-related programs directed toward youth, private land-owner, farmer, master volunteer, and municipal official audiences.

**Format.** Course participants will learn the basics of climate change science, climate change impacts, communication strategies, and climate change actions. They will view short pre-recorded lectures, access readings, participate in weekly discussions, and answer short assessment questions. Participants who complete all the discussion and short answer assignments will receive an Achievement Certificate from Cornell University. Those who complete the assignments and a course project will receive an Expert Certificate. For the course project, participants will develop a project plan for applying course material to their work in 4-H, Horticulture, Natural Resources, or other subject areas. Plan on an average of 4-5 hours a week of work for the 3-week period.

**Course Delivery.** Participants can access the video lectures and readings and complete assignments at any time of day within the week materials are posted. Participants may complete assignments alone or with other participants. This course will use the learning management software Canvas for all videos, readings, assignments, and discussions. We will use Facebook for additional discussion and to share about our climate change programs.

**Benefits to the Learner.** Course participants will learn about climate change science, communication, and action from instructors with wide-ranging experiences and expertise. They will apply this knowledge to local climate change action projects. Specialists from 4-H, Horticulture, Master Gardeners, and Master Naturalists/Natural Resources will help participants develop local projects in these areas. Participants will share their ideas and projects with each other.

**Course Instructors**

<p>Michael Hoffman  <i>Executive Director</i>  <i>Cornell Institute for Climate Smart Solutions</i></p>	<p>Jonathon Lambert  <i>Program Manager</i>  <i>Cornell Institute for Climate Smart Solutions</i></p>
<p>Allison Chatrchyan  <i>Director</i>  <i>Cornell Institute for Climate Change and Agriculture</i></p>	<p>Anne Armstrong  <a href="mailto:aka67@cornell.edu">aka67@cornell.edu</a>  <i>MS/PhD Student</i>  <i>Department of Natural Resources</i></p>
<p>Jonathon Schuldt  <i>Assistant Professor</i>  <i>Department of Communication</i></p>	<p>Marianne Krasny  <i>Director</i>  <i>Civic Ecology Lab, Department of Natural Resources</i></p>

**Course Specialists**

<p>John Bowe  <i>4-H and Family Living Team Coordinator</i>  <i>Cornell Cooperative Extension of Warren County</i></p>
<p>Mary Walsh  <i>Master Gardener</i>  <i>Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County</i></p>
<p>Marilyn Wyman  <i>Hudson Estuary Watershed Resiliency Project</i>  <i>Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia &amp; Greene Counties</i></p>
<p>Laura Griffen McDermott  <i>Small Fruit and Vegetable Specialist</i>  <i>CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program</i></p>

**Course email: <civicecologylab@gmail.com>**

## COURSE SYLLABUS

Interested in working toward climate solutions? This hybrid learning experience combines the convenience of an online course with the support of face-to-face gatherings. Go online to watch short video lectures and read articles based in the latest research on climate change science and communication. Reflect on the course content in online discussions with Extension educators from across the Northeast region. You can also organize face-to-face meetings to discuss course content. You can access lectures and readings at your convenience within the week they are posted.

Extension educators are uniquely situated to collaborate with stakeholders on climate change action. To do so effectively, they require access to good climate change science, communication strategies, and options for action.

In this 3-week online course, students will start by getting to know each other and the basics of climate science and climate change impacts to natural resources and human health (week 1). They will then learn about climate change communication and psychology research and consider how this research can inform their practice (week 2). Finally, students will hear about climate change adaptation, mitigation, and community solutions as well as examples of climate change communication in action (week 3). Each week will feature a discussion question and short quizzes. For their final assignment, students will complete a project plan that details how they will apply course material to their practice. Alternately, students who can apply course material to their practice during the course itself may submit a report detailing their experience.

Feel free to pair up with other students and *form teams* to discuss the course content and complete the final assignments. Or form your *own work or local group* to take the course together and discuss the content and assignments.

### Course Expectations and Requirements

**Course Certificate.** You earn an *Achievement Certificate* for participation from Cornell University if you complete the following course assignments.

1. Post an *introduction* to you and your work
2. Complete at least 3 *quizzes*
3. Participate in weekly *discussion*
4. Complete the *post-course survey*.

You earn an *Expert Certificate* if you complete the above assignments plus the *final project* (develop a plan for applying the course materials in your program).

**Course Participation.** One of the most important benefits of online learning is the opportunity to meet and support colleagues, including those who live far away and you wouldn't normally meet. Please share your thoughts about course materials, your practices, your successes, and your challenges as an Extension educator. Visit the Facebook group and Canvas discussion boards often and comment on your fellow educators' posts.

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**Course Timeline**  
(Subject to minor changes)

WK	Session	Assignments
1	Introduction to Climate Change Science and Impacts  9/11-9/17	1. <u>Explore</u> the course site
		2. <u>Become familiar</u> with the course syllabus
		3. <u>Introduce yourself</u> , including where you are from, your programs, and what you hope to learn and share during the course. Welcome other participants.
		4. <u>Watch</u> the following video lectures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Climate Change 101: The Basics (Mike Hoffman, 6:12)</li> <li>b. Climate Change: The Evidence (Mike Hoffman, 5:41)</li> <li>c. Climate Change and Our Food Supply (Mike Hoffman, 6:09)</li> <li>d. Climate Change and Water (Mike Hoffman)</li> <li>e. Climate Change and Public Health (Jonathon Lambert, 7:25)</li> </ul>
		5. <u>Take a short quiz</u>
		6. <u>Readings</u> TBA
2.	Climate Change Communication  9/18-9/24	1. <u>Watch</u> the following video lectures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Public Opinion on Climate Change (Jonathon Schuldt, 4:38)</li> <li>b. Climate Change and Risk Perception (Jonathon Schuldt, 5:38)</li> <li>c. Climate Change and Identity (Anne Armstrong)</li> <li>d. Climate Change Trusted Messengers (Anne Armstrong, 5:00)</li> </ul>
		2. <u>Participate</u> in course discussions on Canvas and Facebook
		3. <u>Take a short quiz</u>
		4. <u>Readings</u> TBA
	Climate Change Actions  9/25-9/30	1. <u>Watch</u> the following video lectures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Climate Change and Community Action (Allison Chatrchyan, 8:15)</li> <li>b. Climate Change Communication in Action (Anne Armstrong, 8:00)</li> <li>c. Climate Change Mitigation (Jonathon Lambert, 6:34)</li> <li>d. Climate Change Adaptation (Jonathon Lambert, 6:20)</li> </ul>
		2. <u>Participate in course discussion</u> on Canvas and Facebook
		3. <u>Take a short quiz</u>
		4. <u>Readings</u> TBA
		5. <u>Work</u> on final project
		6. <u>Complete</u> course survey and evaluation
	Final Project  10/1-10/7	1. <u>Final Project</u> due by October 7