



**CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE, COMMUNICATION, AND ACTION
ONLINE COURSE OVERVIEW AND SYLLABUS**

Course Dates: September 11-October 1, 2017

Registration Link: https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe5/form/SV_d68I902D6SPzts1

Questions? E-mail civicecologylab@gmail.com

COURSE OVERVIEW

Participants. Cooperative Extension Educators, Master Volunteers, state and local government, land trusts and other non-profits, Cornell students and staff, and others interested in an introduction to climate change science and how to communicate effectively about this important topic.

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 the basics of climate change science and communication and action strategies.
2. Make new connections and share resources as part of an online network of Extension educators, master volunteers, university students and employees, and other professionals, volunteers, and interested individuals.
3. Enhance climate-related education and actions with youth, students, private land-owners, gardeners, master volunteers, municipal officials, colleagues, and others.

Format. You will learn about basic climate change science, impacts, communication strategies, and actions. You will participate in weekly online discussions and complete short quizzes and compete a final project in which you apply what you have learned to your work (e.g., develop a short plan for an educational program). Plan on an average of 3-4 hours a week of work during the course. We encourage you to form a team of colleagues or friends to take the course together.

Course Delivery. Course material will be delivered via video lecture and readings. Course participants may complete assignments alone or with other students. You can access course lectures and readings at any time during the course, but we encourage you to keep up with the assignments for any one week. This course will use the learning management software Canvas for all videos, readings, assignments, and discussions. We will use a closed Facebook group as an *optional* discussion platform where course instructors and participants can post resources, pose questions, and “meet” others with similar interests.

Benefits to the Learner. You will learn about climate change science, communication, and action from experts and apply this knowledge to local climate action projects. You will also have the opportunity to share your ideas and projects with other participants and learn from each other. You can use the materials for proposal writing, program development, and to enhance your career.

COURSE INSTRUCTORS

Mike Hoffmann <i>Executive Director</i> <i>Cornell Institute for Climate Smart Solutions</i>	Jonathan Lambert <i>Program Manager</i> <i>Cornell Institute for Climate Smart Solutions</i>
Allison Chatrchyan <i>Director</i> <i>Cornell Institute for Climate Smart Solutions</i>	Anne Armstrong <i>MS/PhD Student</i> <i>Department of Natural Resources</i>
Jonathon Schuldt <i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Department of Communication</i>	Marianne Krasny <i>Director</i> <i>Civic Ecology Lab, Department of Natural Resources</i>

COURSE SPECIALISTS

John Bowe <i>4-H and Family Living Team Coordinator</i> <i>Cornell Cooperative Extension of Warren County</i>
To be filled <i>Master Gardener</i> <i>Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County</i>
Marilyn Wyman <i>Issue Leader – Natural Resources and the Environment</i> <i>Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia & Greene Counties</i>
Laura Griffen McDermott <i>Small Fruit and Vegetable Specialist</i> <i>Cornell Cooperative Extension Eastern NY</i> <i>Commercial Horticulture Program</i>

COURSE E-MAIL: civicecologylab@gmail.com

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COURSE SYLLABUS

Interested in working toward climate solutions?

Want to learn more about how to talk to people about climate change?

This course covers the basics of climate change, from science to action, and will assist you in developing a consistent climate message. Go online to watch short video lectures and read articles about the latest research on climate change science, communication, and actions. Reflect on the course content in online discussions with other participants from Cooperative Extension, state and local agencies, non-profits, and universities. You can also organize face-to-face meetings to discuss course content.

Cooperative Extension educators in particular, 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. But anyone interested in learning the basics of climate change and partnering with others on climate change action will benefit from the course.

In this 3-week online course, you will start by getting to know each other and the basics of climate science and climate change impacts on our food and water supply, and human health (week 1). You will then learn about climate change communication and environmental psychology research and consider how this can inform your educational and environmental practices (week 2). Finally, you will hear about climate change adaptation and mitigation 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 your final assignment, you will complete a project plan that details how you will apply course material to your practices. Alternately, you can apply course material during the course and submit a report about your experience. You will have two extra weeks after the course ends to submit your final assignment.

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

Course Requirements and Certificate. You earn a certificate for participation from Cornell University if you complete the following course assignments. *Achievement Certificate* awarded to those who complete course weekly assignments. *Expert certificate* awarded to those who complete weekly assignments and final project.

1. Post an *introduction* to you and your work and complete *pre-course survey*.
2. Complete at least 7 *quizzes*.
3. Post 3 *discussion board comments*.
4. Post *final action plan* or *project report*.
5. Complete the *post-course survey*.

Course Participation. One of the most important benefits of online learning is the opportunity to meet and support colleagues. Please share your thoughts about course materials, your practices, your successes, and challenges you have faced when dealing with climate change issues. Visit the Canvas discussion boards (required) and course Facebook group (optional) often and comment on your fellow participants' posts.

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, what kind of work/study you do, and what you hope to learn and share during the course. Welcome other participants. <i>Due Sunday, Sept. 17th 2017.</i>
		4. <u>Watch</u> the video lectures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Climate Change 101: The Basics (Mike Hoffmann) b. Climate Change: The Evidence (Mike Hoffmann) c. Climate Change and Our Food Supply (Mike Hoffmann) d. Climate Change and Water (Mike Hoffmann) e. Climate Change and Public Health (Jonathan Lambert)
		5. <u>Complete quizzes</u> . <i>Due Sunday, Sept. 17, 2017.</i>
		6. <u>Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Required</u>: pp. 1-11 in "Climate Change: Causes, Impacts, and What Humans are Doing About It" by Marianne Krasny. b. <u>Optional</u>: Ch.2, "The Greenhouse Effect," in <i>The Rough Guide to Climate Change</i>, by Robert Henson
2.	Climate Change Communication 9/18-9/24	1. <u>Watch</u> the video lectures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Climate Change and Public Opinion (Jonathon Schuldt) b. Climate Change and Risk Perception (Jonathon Schuldt) c. Climate Change and Identity (Anne Armstrong) d. Climate Change Trusted Messengers (Anne Armstrong)
		2. <u>Participate</u> in course discussions on Canvas and Facebook. <i>Due Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017.</i>
		3. <u>Complete quizzes</u> . <i>Due Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017.</i>
		4. <u>Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Required</u>: pp. 5-15 in <i>Connecting on Climate: A Guide to Effective Climate Communication</i>. http://ecoamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/connecting-on-climate.pdf b. <u>Optional</u>: Dunlap, R. E., McCright, A. M., & Yarosh, J. H. (2016). The political divide on climate change: Partisan polarization widens in the US. <i>Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development</i>, 58(5), 4-23.
		5. <u>Start working on</u> final project, post questions to Canvas Discussion Board or Facebook.

	Climate Change Actions 9/25-10/1	1. <u>Watch</u> the video lectures: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Climate Change in Our Communities (Allison Chatrchyan) b. Climate Change Communication in Action (Anne Armstrong) c. Climate Change Mitigation (Jonathan Lambert) d. Climate Change Adaptation (Jonathan Lambert)
		2. <u>Participate in course discussion</u> on Canvas and Facebook. <i>Due Sunday, October 1, 2017</i>
		3. <u>Complete quizzes</u> . <i>Due Sunday October 1, 2017</i>
		4. <u>Readings</u> TBA
		5. <u>Continue</u> work on final project, post update to Canvas Discussion Board or Facebook group
		6. <u>Final Project</u> due by <i>October 15, 2017</i>.
		7. <u>Complete</u> course post-survey.