

2014 Northfield Area Climate Summit: Breakout Sessions

Each session will be repeated twice: 1:00 –2:00pm; and 2:15-3:15pm

I. The Science of Climate Change

VIKING THEATER (Ground Floor)

- **Robert Jacobel**, Professor of Physics and Environmental Studies, St. Olaf College and Climate Scientist, U.S. Antarctic Research Program
- *Emcee: Alan Anderson*

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has just released its Fifth Assessment Report summarizing 25 years of research on global climate change. If there have been ice ages and other climate changes in the past, *why are scientists so concerned about recent trends? Why are the polar regions such sensitive indicators of change and why are they looked to as complete “archives” of the Earth’s climate history? What’s predicted for Minnesota’s future climate? And what are the likely specific outcomes of that climate?* Come with questions and ideas for discussion and find out what scientists have to say about recent discoveries concerning climate change.

II. Clean Energy and Climate Action: Progress in Minnesota

THE PAUSE/MANE STAGE (Ground Floor)

- **J. Drake Hamilton**, Science Policy Director, Fresh Energy
- **John Farrell**, Institute for Local Self Reliance
- *Emcee: Melissa Eblen-Zayas, Carleton College*

How is Minnesota doing in growing clean, efficient energy and meeting the state’s science-based climate goals? How can the City of Northfield help in climate action that will produce more local, clean energy jobs? This group will focus on State and local energy related solutions to climate change.

III. Business Perspectives on Climate Change and Energy

SUN BALLROOM (3rd Floor)

- **Mark Kulda**, Vice President, Insurance Federation of Minnesota
- **Katy Gillispie**, Corporate Environmental Manager, MOM Brands, Inc.
- **Jeremy Kalin**, President and CEO, Eutectics, LLC ; House author of Minnesota’s PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) Legislation
- *Emcee: John Stull, Interim Director, Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce*

How are changes in climate impacting businesses and industry in Minnesota? This session will discuss the observed and anticipated costs of climate change on state and local businesses, and consider options available to businesses for responding to the change.

IV. Interfaith/Religious, Spiritual Perspectives and Responses to Climate Change

PAUSE/JUNGLE (Ground Flr)

- **Julia Nerbonne**, Director, Interfaith Power and Light
- **Brittany Baurle**, Past President, Creation Restoration, Bethel University
- **Rabbi Shosh Dworsky**, Assoc. Chaplain for Jewish and Interfaith Life, Carleton College

Join Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light as we lean into the question: What does faith have to do with the climate crisis? Julia Nerbonne will facilitate a conversation about what we know about climate change, what we know about hunger, and how we can respond using the tools our faith communities offer. This session will strive to consider the variety of responses to climate change on the part of religious and faith groups in Minnesota.

V. Climate Change, Food and Local Agriculture

VALHALLA (3rd Floor)

- **Erin Meier**, University of Minnesota, South East Minnesota Sustainability Partnerships
- **Bruce Blair**, Owner, Welch Permaculture Gardens
- *Emcee: Kathy Zeman, Simple Harvest Farm Organics*

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Farming and food choices are impacted by climate and, in turn, can be positive forces in mitigating climate change. Join with members of the Northfield Area Sustainable Farming Association for this informative discussion about what's happening in the region and statewide to develop and employ growing practices and ecologically-designed landscapes that can mediate extreme weather events.

VI. Responding to Climate Change: Socially Responsible Investing GOLD BALLROOM (3rd Floor)

- **Patty O'Keefe**, MN350.org
- **Greg Carlson and Adam Hoffmann**, Carlson Capital Management Group, Northfield
- *Emcee: Matt Rohn, Professor of Art History & Environmental Studies, St. Olaf*

This session will explore financial divestment for institutions (MN350.org) and socially responsible investment practices (Carlson Capital Management Group).

VII. Responding to Climate Change: Effective Energy Conservation TROLLHOUGEN (3rd Floor) Steps for Homeowners and Businesses

- **Emma Schriver**, Program Coordinator, MN Energy Challenge
- **Michele Gransee**, Minnesota Department of Commerce: Division of Energy Resources
- *Emcee: Martha Larson, Manager of Campus Energy and Sustainability, Carleton College*

This Session will provide practical information on low- and no- cost energy efficiency measures that are recommended for local residential property owners, businesses, schools and institutions.

VIII. Climate Change and Local Flooding: Effective "Slow the Flow" Strategies BLACK BALLROOM (3rd Floor) for Cities and Property Owners

- **Robert Collett**, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- **Beth Kallestad**, Cannon River Watershed Partnership
- **Tim Madigan**, City Administrator, City of Northfield
- *Emcee: Ross Currier, Executive Director, Northfield Downtown Development Corporation*

IX. Climate Change and Transportation: Best Practices for Creating BC 142 (1st Floor) Energy Efficient Communities

- **Barbara Thoman**, Executive Director Transit for Livable Communities
- **Philipp Muessig**, GreenSteps Cities Program Administrator
- *Emcee: Bruce Anderson, Member of Northfield Non-Motorized Transportation Task Force and Greater Northfield Greenway Corridor Task Force*

What impact do our transportation choices have on our natural environment? What can Cities and local residents do to contribute to lessen the negative impact of transportation on our environment? This session will consider the financial and economic and environmental costs of different kinds of transportation options, and suggest specific ways that communities can pursue energy efficient communities through transportation planning.