

The Chemistry of Climate Change and Sustainable Energy

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The prospect of global climate change with its attendant adverse consequences, resulting in large measure from fossil fuel combustion, is a matter of great current concern. And yet, few Americans know how their energy is produced, or where it comes from. Two NSF supported initiatives sought to address this problem. A CD-ROM, developed in collaboration with the Advanced Technology Environmental Education Center, provides resources for educators on climate change and sustainable energy, along with material on six other current environmental issues. To reach the professional chemistry community, a symposium was held at the 226th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society, at which climate science leaders from universities, government, industry, and NGOs offered their views on the current state of climate science, modeling, and greenhouse gas measurements; coupling between climate change and atmospheric chemical cycles involving ozone, aerosols, and oxidizing radicals; and technology options for energy production in a "greenhouse constrained" world.



Both technical and policy aspects were considered at the symposium, including the viewpoint from developing countries. The symposium concluded with a panel discussion on communication and perception of this complex set of issues among the public, students, and policymakers.

In order to make the content of the Symposium available to as large an audience as possible, the presentations and associated materials were made available on a web site, (<http://lfee.mit.edu/education/acsclimate/>).

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