



CCB-bulletin, no 2, 24 may 2004

<http://www.wageningen-ur.nl/ccb/>

New website for climate science: [Http://www.klimaatportaal.nl](http://www.klimaatportaal.nl)

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Europa in de Broeikas/themadag klimaat (30 Juni 2004, Maarssen)
2. Integrated assessment of the land system: The future of land use (28-30 Oktober 2004, Amsterdam)
3. Symposium 'Unsaturated Zone Modelling: Progress, Applications and Challenges ' (3-5 October 2004, Wageningen)
4. Economics and the Analysis of Biology and Biodiversity (2-3 September 2004, Cambridge)

VACANCIES

5. / Vacancy proffessorship Eart System Science at Wageningen University (**See Attach**)

NEWS ITEMS

6. Gemeente Almere in de race voor grote klimaatsubsidie
7. Klimaatportaal Online
8. Could the climate crash the movie 'the day after tomorrow'?

1. Europa in de Broeikas

Tijdstip: 30 Juni 2004 (1000u-1800u)

Locatie : Le Fabrique, gelegen in Maarssen, 800 meter vanaf het NS station

Meer info: [Brochure](#)

Organisatie: [PCCC](#)

Vanaf 1 juli is Nederland voorzitter van de EU. Staatssecretaris Van Geel van VROM grijpt het voorzitterschap aan om het onderwerp klimaatverandering hoog op de Europese agenda te zetten. Dat is volgens de Staatssecretaris een urgent probleem. In de komende decennia zijn er aanzienlijk meer emissiereducties nodig dan tot nu gerealiseerd. Op 30 juni komen bedrijfsleven, wetenschap, politiek en beleid bijeen om de mogelijkheden van die reducties te bediscussiëren. En te laten Zien! Wij nodigen u van harte uit deel te nemen aan deze dag.

Registratie

U bent ook welkom in DeFabrique in Maarssen, Vul daartoe het [registratieformulier](#) in, en fax/e-mail/verzend dit per post naar:

RIVM/PCCC

t.a.v. Ottelien van Steenis

Antwoordnummer 3261

3720 VB Bilthoven
Email: ottelien.van.steenis@rivm.nl

- Voorlopig programma**
- 9.00 - 12.00
 - ▶ Opening door Staatssecretaris Van Geel van VROM
 - ▶ Virtuele introductie 'Doorkijk in de broeikas'
 - ▶ Klimaatmarkt
 - ▶ Lezingen over
 - De hete zomer van 2030
 - De onvermijdelijke risico's van klimaatverandering
 - De werkelijke kosten van Kyoto
 - De olie van de toekomst
 - 12.00 - 14.30
 - ▶ Lunch en Klimaatmarkt
 - 14.30 - 18.00
 - ▶ Opening Middagprogramma door Minister Brinkhorst van EZ
 - ▶ Aanbevelingen van het bedrijfsleven en adviezen van burgers
 - ▶ Solarpower versus Hydroenergy
 - ▶ Debat m.m.v. Staatssecretaris van Geel en Minister Brinkhorst
 - ▶ Afsluiting en borrel

De Klimaatmarkt

De klimaatdag is een goed moment om uw organisatie, product, bedrijf of onderzoek te presenteren aan een geïnteresseerd en betrokken publiek - en veel media. Daartoe heeft u de mogelijkheid op de klimaatmarkt; een aantal ruimtes van DeFabrique in Maarssen wordt op die dag ingericht voor discussie en presentatiemogelijkheden. U kunt ruimte op deze markt reserveren via het aanmeldingsformulier dat u bij uw uitnodiging voor deze dag hebt ontvangen. Heeft u geen uitnodiging ontvangen, en wilt u wel op de markt staan, dan kunt u zich hiervoor aanmelden. Hiertoe kunt u een korte omschrijving geven van uw bedrijfs- of productpresentatie en dit mailen naar info@synergoscommunicatie.nl

2. Integrated assessment of the land system: The future of land use

Date: 28-30 October 2004

Place: Institute for Environmental Studies, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

The workshop is co-sponsored by the Land Use and Cover Change (LUCC) community and the European Forum on Integrated Environmental Assessment (EFIEA) and aims at:

1. Providing a state-of-the-art of Land Use and Cover Change (LUCC) activities
2. An Integrated Assessment of the future of land use in Europe
3. Linking the networks of Integrated Assessment (EFIEA) and LUCC

We aim to bring together scientists that are involved in LUCC or land use/cover modelling and those involved in EFIEA or Integrated Assessment. Your research should be dealing with (agricultural) land use issues, should be multidisciplinary and preferably involve multiple actors at multiple scales. We especially invite those who employ participatory methods and involve stakeholders and policy makers. The workshop focuses both on land use modelling and related data issues (Day 1) and on more qualitative methods and how those can be linked to those quantitative tools (Day 2 and Day 3). For Day 2, we are inviting only those whose work is within Europe.

The LUCC community is a global network and this part of the workshop aims at a geographically broad mix of researchers; the EFIEA community is European and for this part of the workshop only those studying land use in Europe are invited, which should preferably be affiliated with an institute that is an official EFIEA Member.

Details on the workshop aims and programme as well as on the registration fee and abstract submission deadline can be found on www.lucc.nl under Workshop. The attachment summarises the information present on the website.

On behalf of the organising committee,
Kasper Kok, Tom Veldkamp, Kasper Kok. Peter Verburg

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3. Hydrology of the Unsaturated Zone: Progress, Challenges, and Applications

Wageningen, The Netherlands, October 3-5, 2004

This is the second announcement of the international Wageningen UR Frontis Symposium

The symposium marks the retirement of Prof. Reinder Feddes. During the symposium, a series of invited lecturers will address a number of research areas all related to the unsaturated zone. There will also be ample time to study volunteered poster presentations and interact with other participants. Since our first announcement, the program has shaped up considerably. The confirmed invited contributions are given below. These will appear in a proceedings volume that is included in the registration fee. Each paper will be presented in a lecture by the first author(s).

We have also received approximately 70 poster presentations and have room for still more. You can submit your abstract for a poster until **June 1st, 2004**. These abstracts will be included in a booklet that all participants will receive. So far, people have registered from Europe, North America and Asia. If you want to join this highly international assembly of both established and young unsaturated zone scientists, there is still time to register. The number of participants is limited to 200, so please do not delay your registration too long. If you want to present a poster, please submit your abstract (0.5-1 A4) before June 1st.

For details on the registration procedure please visit website
<http://frontiscms.co.dlo.nl/cms/web/2004/20041003/info.php3?wsid=1>

We are looking forward to seeing many of you in Wageningen in October.

Yours sincerely,

The scientific coordination committee:
Jos van Dam, Gerrit de Rooij
Flip Witte, Peter Droogers
Massimo Menenti
Wim Bastiaanssen
Pavel Kabat
Joop Kroes

4. Economics and the Analysis of Biology and Biodiversity

the Sixth Annual BIOECON Conference, Kings College Cambridge, 2-3 September 2004

Hosted by the Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge and the Department of Economics, University College London
in association with UK-DEFRA, DIVERSITAS and FEEM

The University of Cambridge, the University College London (UCL), the Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) in association with UK DEFRA and DIVERSITAS announce the Sixth International BIOECON conference on the economic analysis of policies for biodiversity conservation. The conference will be held at Kings College Cambridge, 2-3 September 2004. The conference will be of interest to both researchers interested in biological resources and biological processes and to policy makers interested in or working within the field of biodiversity conservation.

The conference will have sessions examining the management of biological resources and biological processes as well as sessions regarding the economic analysis of policies for biodiversity conservation. Papers may be submitted for consideration for presentation within the workshops by sending copies to both Cambridge (Andreas Kontoleon at ak219@cam.ac.uk) and to UCL (Tim.Swanson@ucl.ac.uk) no later than 15th May 2004. Acceptance of papers will be notified by email by 31st May 2004. Registrations for the conference are due by 30th June 2004.

Accommodation for all participants will be organised within Kings College, with a college reception on the evening of the 1st September, and a conference banquet within Kings College on the evening of the 2nd September. Lunches and refreshments will also be provided. Workshop sessions will commence on the morning of the 2nd September and conclude on the afternoon of the 3rd.

The hosts will cover all conference costs (except travel) for paper presenters and discussants. There will be a £300 registration fee for all other participants that will include two nights lodging at Kings College, the banquet, lunches and refreshments. There is a £100 registration fee for day-participants (that includes lunches and refreshments but not lodging and the conference banquet).

Registration details are provided in the following form. Further information on the conference will be posted on the BIOECON web-site at www.bioecon.ucl.ac.uk.

Best wishes,

Kerstin

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6. Gemeente Almere in de race voor grote klimaatsubsidie

Almere wil samen met drie andere Europese groeisteden 15,5 miljoen Europese subsidie ontvangen voor het realiseren van lokaal klimaatbeleid. Almere wil haar aandeel van vier miljoen steken in energiemaatregelen in twee nieuwe wijken. Het eerste plan betreft Noorderplassen-West, waar de gemeente samen met energiebedrijf Nuon een collectief zonnecollectorensysteem wil realiseren. Deze enorme 'zonneboiler' wordt dan onderdeel van de stadsverwarming op het 'Zoneiland'. Het tweede plan behelst vijfhonderd energiezuinige, duurzame en comfortabele 'Zonnewoningen' in het Columbuskwartier. Milton Keynes (Engeland), Viladecans (Spanje) en Ajaccio (Frankrijk) hebben soortgelijke plannen ontwikkeld. De Europese subsidie die de steden willen verwerven betreft innovaties in het gemeentelijk klimaatbeleid. (Binnenlands Bestuur, 19 mei 2004)

Meer info:

<http://naiad.triple->

[it.nl/db/o.exe/ikc/newsdirect.odt?url=www.binnenlandsbestuur.nl/bb/area/access_29591.html%3Fpage%3D/bb/jsp/detailbyio.jsp%3Fiopk%3D283004%26n-date%3D19/05/2004](http://naiad.triple-it.nl/db/o.exe/ikc/newsdirect.odt?url=www.binnenlandsbestuur.nl/bb/area/access_29591.html%3Fpage%3D/bb/jsp/detailbyio.jsp%3Fiopk%3D283004%26n-date%3D19/05/2004)

7. Lancering klimaatportal

www.klimaatportaal.nl is het nieuwe communicatieplatform over klimaatverandering. Het klimaatportaal is dé interactieve toegang tot de meest recente wetenschappelijke inzichten over klimaatverandering en wordt gefaciliteerd door de Nederlandse kennisinstellingen op het gebied van klimaat. Het klimaatportaal is de digitale toegang van de Nederlandse kennisinstellingen waar op een geïntegreerde wijze actuele kennis over het klimaat, klimaatverandering, gevolgen, aanpassingsmogelijkheden en mitigatie maatregelen ter beschikking staat voor beleidsmakers, bedrijfsleven, belangengroepen, media en publiek. Het portaal speelt actief in op actuele ontwikkelingen zoals extreem weer, nieuwe wetenschappelijke inzichten, belangrijke klimaatconferenties of doorbraken in het beleid. Gebruikers van het portaal worden interactief betrokken, waarmee optimaal kan worden ingespeeld op de informatiebehoefte van de doelgroepen.

Het klimaatportaal wordt beheerd door het PCCC (Platform Communication on Climate Change), een samenwerkingverband tussen RIVM, KNMI, NWO, Wageningen UR, KNMI, de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam en ECN. Het portaal wordt mede gefinancierd uit het NRP-CC en het BSIK programma Klimaat voor Ruimte.

Het PCCC heeft als doel om de kwaliteit, efficiëntie en effectiviteit van de communicatie van Nederlands klimaatonderzoek te verbeteren. Daartoe faciliteren de initiatiefnemers een communicatieplatform waarvan alle geïnteresseerden en alle Nederlandse kennisinstellingen gebruik van kunnen maken. Naast het klimaatportaal faciliteert PCCC ook dialoog workshops en andere communicatie activiteiten

8. Could the climate crash 'the day after tomorrow'?

Source: http://www.nature.com/nsu/nsu_pf/040510/040510-6.html (Review by the scientific journal Nature)

From 27 May 2004 this movie could be seen in All cinema's in Europe

12 May 2004 by Mark Peplow

A 50-metre high tsunami engulfs Manhattan. Helicopters plummet from the sky when their fuel freezes solid in the mother of all blizzards. Monster hailstones rain down on Tokyo. These are all scenes from *The Day After Tomorrow*, a US\$125 million eco-disaster film showing in cinemas worldwide from 28 May. The film is already causing a stir as some scientists question its premise, and environmental groups such as Greenpeace use the apocalyptic vision of climate change to promote their cause.

The plot is simple enough. The Atlantic Ocean is being diluted as Arctic ice melts, owing to global warming. This dilution turns off the vital ocean current, known as thermohaline circulation, that normally carries warm water from the equator deep into the northern hemisphere by means of the Gulf Stream. So far, so modelled; the Hadley Centre in Exeter, part of the UK's Met Office, has run computer simulations to study the demise of this aquatic conveyor belt. Their model showed that without warm water from the Gulf Stream, western Europe would be about 5 °C cooler after just a few decades. Many climatologists believe that a similar shut-down happened at the end of the last ice age, roughly 13,000 years ago, when meltwater from an enormous glacier poured into the north Atlantic.

As well as translating this scenario to the United States, *The Day After Tomorrow* takes this idea a few stages further. First, the ocean cools down by 13 °C as the thermohaline circulation ceases. This creates three enormous hurricanes that drag cold air down from the upper atmosphere. Anyone who ventures outside is instantly frozen solid by the chilly draught, which also disables the hapless helicopters. Within a week, the entire Northern Hemisphere is covered in ice.

Artistic licence

While the movie's producers acknowledge that details in the film are exaggerated, they emphasise that human activity could trigger a sudden ice age. "We pushed the time period in which an ice age could occur for dramatic purposes," says producer Mark Gordon, "but the theory that global warming could cause an abrupt climate shift is gaining mainstream attention."

Few scientists would quibble with artistic licence, but many question the basic premise that global warming could trigger a sudden, cataclysmic climate change. "The evidence to date suggests that the big turn off is very unlikely. You would have to warm the Earth by many, many degrees to put enough fresh water into the Atlantic," says David Viner, a climatologist at the University of East Anglia in Norwich. Human activity will definitely produce a gradual global warming rather than sudden global cooling, he says, although he concedes that "localized extreme weather events such as golf ball-sized hailstones are definitely on the rise in our warming world." Abrupt global cooling is more likely to be caused by a volcanic eruption or meteorite impact that throws dust into the atmosphere, blocking the Sun's rays, he suggests. "We are seeing some slowing of the thermohaline circulation, but my hunch is that we are not going to see a dramatic climate change because of it," agrees Julian Hunt, a climate model expert at University College London. Losing Arctic ice during the summer would just weaken the current rather than shutting it down altogether, he says, and nobody predicts that Arctic ice will be lost during the winter.

Hunt adds that although global warming may weaken ocean currents, it also tends to strengthen winds that push warm water into higher latitudes. This could counteract any cooling effects.

Hammer it home

The director and co-writer Roland Emmerich, who also made *Independence Day*, still wants his film to be taken seriously as a climate scenario. "My secret dream is that this film will move politicians to act," he told Spiegel Online earlier this month. Not so secret, perhaps. In one scene, the head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reprimands the stubborn vice-president of the United States. "You did not want to know about the science when it could have made a difference," he chides. Emmerich clearly loves making the vice-president eat humble pie when he later thanks Mexico for taking in US refugees.

The film may in fact gain some political influence. Former vice-president Al Gore is planning an environmental rally to tie in with the film première, for example. "It will not be as sudden and dramatic as the Hollywood film, but the Earth's environment is currently sustaining severe and potentially irreparable damage," says Gore.

Gales of laughter

"I hope the film will help raise awareness of the human influence on climate change," despite its sometimes questionable science, says Viner. "This film has certainly added a new dimension to the public engagement with this issue in a way that climate scientists could never do," says Ian Curtis, who develops methods for communicating climatology at Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute.

But Viner believes that the film's impact will ultimately depend on its quality. "Look at *Waterworld*: that was supposed to be about climate change. But it was crap, and everyone ignored it," he says.

At a preview screening yesterday, the audience's reaction to the hammier sections of the film's dialogue did not augur well. Their derisive laughter may scupper Emmerich's ambitions for political leverage.

Colofon:

The CCB-Bulletin is a news bulletin for researchers in the field of global environmental change from Wageningen University and Research Centre, as well as for people who are interested. The bulletin is provided by the Climate Change and Biosphere Research Centre (CCB - Wageningen UR). This bulletin board is intended for information exchange, like announcements of workshops, conferences, job opportunities and education courses in relation to global change research. It will be sent to you every 3 weeks, in case of vacancies we may use it ad-hoc.

Would you like to add a news item or a changes in E-MAILADRES or you want to be removed from this newsbulletin?
Please, contact us by e-mail:: jeroen.veraart@wur.nl

2004 CCB Wageningen UR

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