



Pacific Institute
for Climate Solutions
Knowledge. Insight. Action.

Climate Insights 101 discussion points: Clear the Air

Available on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/PICSClimateInsights>

1. The Greenhouse Effect

How do you think the term “greenhouse effect” originated? Why did it stick in the public imagination? Why is it inaccurate?

If you could choose a better popular term, what might it be?

2. The Sun’s Influence (sunspots and solar output)

As we’ve heard, sunspots and changes in solar output have been cited as another reason for the Earth’s warming trend even though there is no scientific evidence to support this claim. If you were in a conversation with a person who believed sunspots were a cause of climate change, how would you try to convince them otherwise?

3. Human Influence

“Balance” is a key word when assessing climate change and our role in influencing change – one way or the other. The industrialization of the world has tipped the balance of CO₂ in the atmosphere. What are ways both industry and individuals can help redress the balance?

China is a rapidly industrializing country. Discuss what you know about how China is addressing the impact of its industrialization on the world as this relates to climate change?

What other countries are also rapidly industrializing?

4. Mother Nature

Analyzing ancient snowflakes at Vostok is very specialized research that not many of us know about. How could we get this important and fascinating information out to the public in an effective way?

Why do you think some people believe that there is nothing we can do about climate change because they think Mother Nature is in control?

5. The Earth is Cooling?

Why do people get confused about whether or not the Earth is warming?

What are some other examples of “cherry picking” information by climate change deniers?

6. Climate Change Consensus (scientists and the rest of us)

What do you think is the reason for such a variety of opinions about global warming among the general public?

Where do you think most people get their information about global warming and climate change? Where do you get most of your information?

What could help get accurate, scientifically proven information disseminated more effectively?