

What are our goals?

The goals of the Collaborative are to:

- 1) Identify the local impacts of and solutions to climate change affecting places in which people live and about which they care.
- 2) Provide educational content about the science of climate change and its solutions.
- 3) Strengthen the capacity of the partners through professional development.

Why should you join?

Membership is required to participate in the programs of the Collaborative. Members of the Connecticut Science Center Collaborative will:

- Have access to and help in developing programs, exhibits, and special projects designed to educate the public about the impacts of and solutions to climate change in Connecticut;
- Be able to take advantage of a variety of training and professional development opportunities offered by the Collaborative at no or low cost; and
- Benefit from opportunities and funding that would not otherwise be available.

What does it cost?

There are currently no annual membership fees. Participants pay only the cost of meals or products they choose to buy.

Who are the members?

The members of the Connecticut Science Center Collaborative include science and nature centers, research institutions and universities, non-profit organizations and government agencies that recognize the necessity for a higher level of education, public awareness and understanding of climate change issues.

For information, contact:

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The Connecticut Science Center Collaborative

Membership



**The mission of the
Connecticut
Science Center Collaborative
is to educate the people of
Connecticut about the science
of climate change,
its impacts and solutions.**

What do we do?

The Collaborative combines the latest scientific findings of research and academic institutions with the interpretive expertise of science centers to develop exhibits, educational content, and outreach projects for more than three million visitors to the state's science and nature centers. It is affiliated with the New England Science Center Collaborative.

What kinds of programs does the Collaborative have to offer?

- **Meet The Scientists** – Representatives from each of the collaborating institutions attend day-long programs in which educators from science centers meet with scientists to discuss their findings and learn about the tools and methods they use to study climate change. They learn about the research methodologies and analytic techniques that scientists use to unravel human versus natural impacts on climate. Scientists learn how informal educators present complicated subject matter to the public in “digestible bits.” These sessions also draw people from government agencies, NGOs and community-based organizations.
- **Speaking Series** – A roster of high-profile speakers will be available to participating members for educational programs, special events or board meetings. The speakers will be drawn from leaders in fields such as ecology, climatology, meteorology, oceanography, business and public policy. Each of the speakers will be asked to contribute an article on their work for use in science center publications or other outlets.
- **Teaching Tools** – The *Climate Change Backpack* contains graphs, maps, experiments, a climate change play, an imitation ice core, a compact fluorescent light bulb, clothesline and pins, and a bookmark listing websites to consult for more information. The materials fit into a backpack and are designed to expand or contract according to the audience and available teaching time. Staff, docents, and teachers are using the backpack in training programs that are being offered throughout New England. The

Collaborative will also offer a “Train the Trainers” Program to people who can instruct others on how to use the backpack most effectively. Other tools and programs specific to Connecticut will be developed by the Collaborative during 2005 and 2006.

- **Greening Program** – Works with members to identify opportunities to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their facilities. Clean Air-Cool Planet, which is the current coordinating organization for the Collaborative, has a greenhouse gas inventory tool that can be adapted for use in science centers.
- **Student Competition** – Connecticut science centers will sponsor an annual statewide competition, challenging students to propose solutions to climate change that raise awareness and demonstrate what young people can do. The first year of the competition will focus on how to communicate the solutions to global warming in Connecticut by creating messages that appeal to young people. Students will learn what themes resonate with their peers and how to present these messages effectively using a variety of print and electronic media.
- **Exhibits** – The Collaborative is applying to the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund to develop traveling exhibits and educational programs on renewable energy for the state's science centers. The Collaborative will test a variety of off-the-shelf products to learn what resonates with its audiences. It will then develop and test its own exhibits and educational programs.
- **Website** – To respond to the growing interest and requests for information, the Collaborative will develop a website where visitors can learn more about the topic of climate change, be linked to other sites of interest, and find information about its members and programs. There will be someone on staff who can respond to inquiries and update its information on a regular basis.

Connecticut Science Center Collaborative Membership Form

Please sign below to renew or activate your organization's membership.

Member Institution: _____

Contact Person _____

Signature of Executive Director: _____ Date: _____
(or other leadership position)