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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
1 March 2007

Taking Climate Change Discussions Beyond the Science - AMS Launches New Climate Policy Blog

The American Meteorological Society, the nation's leading professional society for those in the atmospheric and related sciences, launched a new weblog ("blog") today to address the challenging policy issues related to climate change. The goal is to help decision makers at all levels make sound policy based on the best available information.

"From a policy standpoint, the important scientific questions about human caused climate change are largely settled," said AMS Senior Policy Fellow Paul Higgins. "Society faces serious risks and complex choices about how to handle them. We need to confront the most contentious policy issues as openly and straightforwardly as possible. That way we may be able to overcome the stumbling blocks that keep preventing us from dealing with climate change. AMS wants to help by making sure that it is knowledge and understanding that drive our policy choices."

ClimatePolicy.org will encourage exchanges among experts, policy-makers, journalists, and the broader society. The blog will build on the knowledge of some of the world's leading climate experts who come from the United States' most renowned institutions. The core contributors include Joe Aldy (Resources for the Future), Scott Barrett (Johns Hopkins University), Dan Kammen (University of California, Berkeley), Mike MacCracken (Climate Institute), Mike Mastrandrea (Stanford University), and Michael Oppenheimer (Princeton University). With this broad range of expertise, ClimatePolicy will explore and analyze society's options for reducing climate risks while also increasing economic opportunities and incorporating ethical values. These expert contributors, along with reader input from around the world, will help encourage a full assessment of potential responses to the threats posed by climate change.

"The goal of the blog is to move from knowledge to policy by helping to distinguish between what we know and personal value judgments about what we should do," added Higgins. "By working to inform the policy process rather than advocating specific policy preferences, we believe we can help society move more quickly to address this problem. A blog approach is critical, however, because it will draw thousands of people into the discussion. Their input, and the broad dialog that results, may produce unexpected, and far superior, outcomes."

The Climate Policy project is part of the American Meteorological Society's Policy Program. The views expressed by the contributors are theirs alone and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of AMS (www.ametsoc.org). To learn about established AMS positions on climate change or other issues, consult AMS statements online at <http://www.ametsoc.org/policy/>

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