



The Climate Scoreboard: A New, Easily Accessible Tool For Understanding and Tracking the Global Climate Change Negotiations

A new online resource reports the long-term climate implications of proposals to the United Nations negotiations in Copenhagen.

Hartland, VT, USA. Sustainability Institute today launched the Climate Scoreboard (www.climatescoreboard.org), an online tool that allows the public, journalists and other interested parties to track progress in the ongoing negotiations to produce an international climate treaty. The Scoreboard allows users to check, on a daily basis, whether proposals in the treaty process commit countries to enough greenhouse gas emissions reductions to achieve widely expressed goals, such as limiting future warming to 1.5 to 2.0°C (2.7° to 3.6°F) above pre-industrial temperatures.

The Scoreboard will follow the negotiations in Copenhagen from day to day, and continue tracking progress in the months following the conference, addressing the question: if current proposals for emissions reductions were implemented how much future warming would be avoided?

Today, in advance of the opening of the Copenhagen Conference, the Climate Scoreboard shows that, while current proposals would reduce warming in 2100 relative to a scenario with no reductions in emissions, proposals are not yet ambitious enough to limit temperature increase to 2°C (3.6°F) over pre-industrial temperatures. The Scoreboard estimates a temperature increase of 3.8°C (7.0°F) over pre-industrial if current proposals were implemented as compared to a 4.8°C (8.7°F) temperature increase by 2100 without emissions reductions.

The Climate Scoreboard results are delivered as a widget that can be embedded in media reports, blogs, websites, and Facebook.

The Scoreboard is based on the C-ROADS (Climate Rapid Overview and Decision Support) computer simulation, which is carefully calibrated to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report results. C-ROADS emerged from research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and allows users to input mitigation proposals for China, India, the US, the European Union, and other nations and regions. It then simulates these emissions' impacts on greenhouse gas concentrations, temperature change, per-capita emissions, cumulative emissions, sea level rise and other indicators.

In addition to the Scoreboard, C-ROADS analysis of current proposals is shared online in a variety of forms, including graphics, data files, and slide sets.

C-ROADS has been used in strategic planning sessions for decision makers from government, business and social organizations and in interactive role-playing policy exercises.

Launching the Scoreboard today, Dr. Elizabeth Sawin of Sustainability Institute said:

“The Climate Scoreboard helps make sense of what is happening in the climate treaty process. It helps negotiators, political leaders non-governmental organizations, the media and citizens understand the state of the negotiations. All of us have a stake in these negotiations, and the reporting, which will be continuously updated during the Copenhagen conference, will help us track how close the negotiations are to achieving their goals.”

The Climate Scoreboard can be viewed at www.climatescoreboard.org.

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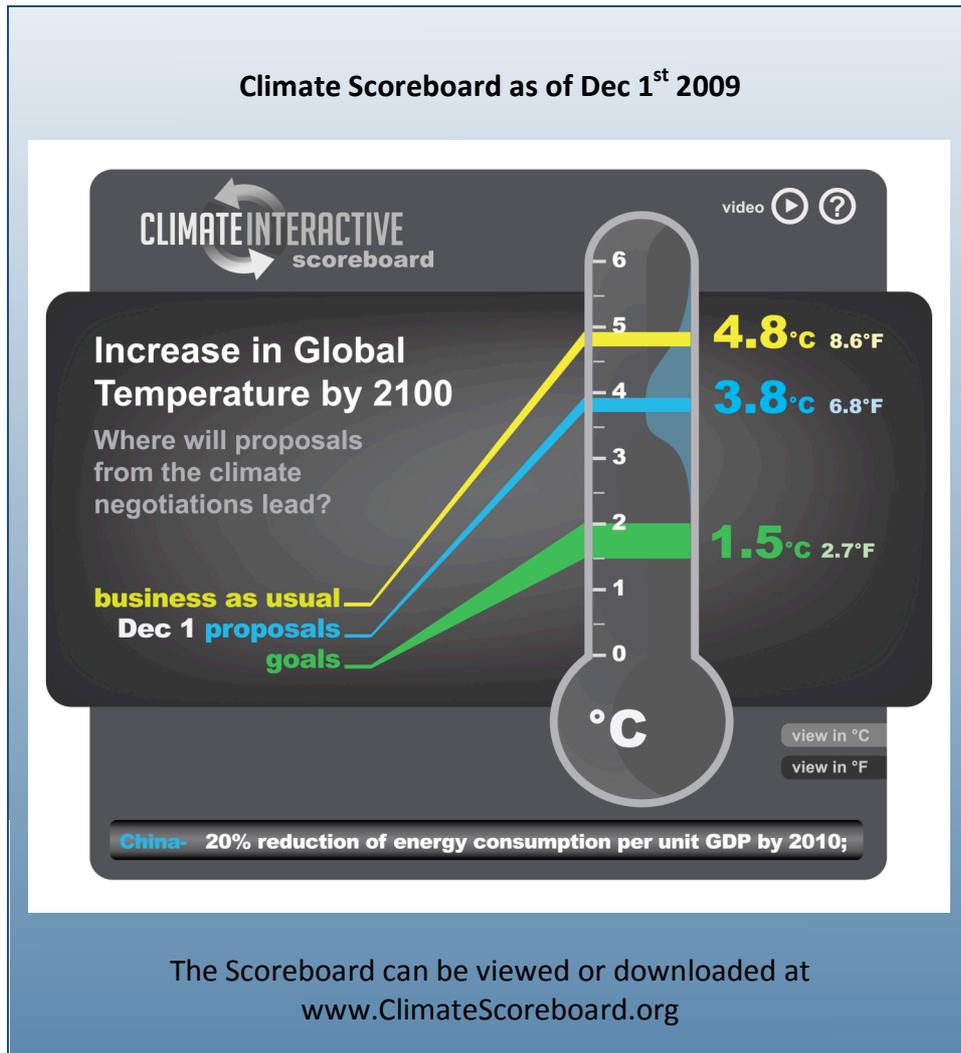
For further information please visit:

<http://climateinteractive.org> or <http://www.sustainer.org>

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Static image of the Scoreboard



Notes for Editors

- C-ROADS is based on simulation modeling originally conducted at MIT and has been developed by a partnership of MIT's Sloan School of Management, Sustainability Institute and Ventana Systems.
- C-ROADS draws upon and is intended to complement the insights of other, more disaggregated models such as MAGICC, MINICAM, EPPA, AIM and MERGE.
- The development and use of C-ROADS has been supported by Active Philanthropy, Zennström Philanthropies, The Morgan Family Foundation, The Rockefeller Brothers Fund and others.
- The Scoreboard has been shared with analysts in the United States, the European Environmental Agency, China and Indonesia. It was also presented by Jonathan Pershing at the UNFCCC conference in Bonn in April 2009.

- Sustainability Institute is a non-profit organization based in Hartland, VT, USA. It was founded by Donella Meadows in 1997 as a 'think-do tank.' Current projects at SI include simulation modeling of climate change and public health and the Donella Meadows Leadership Fellows Program.

Quotes

“This capability [C-ROADS], had it been available to me when we negotiated Kyoto, would have yielded a different outcome”

—Tim Wirth, President, UN Foundation, and former U.S. Senator

“More chilling is the computer modeling [the C-ROADS team] did against the current plans of every single country that is planning to do anything, and it's not that big a group.... They took all of these current projections and ran the computer models against what is currently happening in the science. And in every single case, it showed that we are not just marginally above a catastrophic tipping point level. We are hugely, significantly above it.”

— Senator John Kerry

“The results [of C-ROADS] have been very helpful to our team here at the U.S. State Department....The simulator's quick and accurate calculation of atmospheric carbon dioxide levels and temperatures has been a great asset to us. ...I have made use of the results in both internal discussions, and in the international negotiations....”

— Jonathan Pershing, Deputy Special Envoy for Climate Change, U.S. Department of State

“For the first time, with C-ROADS, we have a way to capture on the spot the implications of the key decisions that will be made around the follow-up to Kyoto, with sobering and powerful results.”

— Dr. Jacqueline McGlade, Exec. Director, European Environment Agency

Interview possibilities

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- In Copenhagen December 6th to 19th

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- In Copenhagen December 6th to 12th

And sources via Sawin and Jones on specific aspects and implications of the Climate Interactive Scoreboard:

- Simulation Science or Business: Dr. John Sterman, MIT
- Climate Science and International Policy: Dr. Bob Corell, Washington D.C.
- International policies/United Nations: Bas de Leeuw, Sustainability Institute
- Latin America: Christiana Figueres