



World Climate

a computer-simulation-based role-playing exercise

“Most people get lost when they just see the results of models. But people *really* understand when, as I saw in this Copenhagen exercise, they *experience* the results.”

Dr. Bob Corell, Global Change Program of the Heinz Center, USA
former chair of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment

World Climate is a half-day simulation-based role-playing exercise that gives groups of 20 to 70 people an experience of reaching a global agreement to mitigate climate change.

Set up as a highly simplified UN negotiation similar to what took place in Copenhagen in 2009, the exercise asks participants to play the role of delegates from India, China, the US, the EU, Brazil, island nations, and other regions. Negotiators work together to reach a global accord that meets the group’s goal for CO₂ levels. The UN Secretary General receives pledges from three different blocs, asks his technical staff to simulate them in the *C-ROADS* climate simulation, developed by Climate Interactive, and informs delegates of the results. Often, the teams must go back for another round of debate, strategizing, and collaboration.

World Climate was designed by Drew Jones of Climate Interactive and John Sterman of the MIT Sloan School of Management. The exercise has been used around the world, with business leaders, students, and policy makers.

Players tend to identify strongly with their roles — we’ve seen politically conservative Americans arguing vigorously for the rights to economic development for the south, Chinese nationals defending the US posi-

tion, and “climate refugees” from Bangladesh climbing on the desks of the Indian delegates to escape sea level rise.

Overall, World Climate helps people quickly learn the policy-relevant science of climate change, viscerally experience the international dynamics, and succeed at crafting a solution to the challenges, while taking a realistic look at the scale of changes ahead as we shift to a low-carbon global economy.

“I found I need the physical experience of representing Africa and other nations in the negotiation to really get the key insights that will lead to success.” Participant, Germany

“I learned that once I participated “inside” the model I could visualize the results of different emissions reductions targets.” Participant, Sweden

“The exercise allows you to understand how difficult and important it is to achieve a reduction in atmospheric CO₂ levels over the coming decades. It showed me, from a global decision-making point of view, that unless we change our language and decisions in the international agreements, it will be impossible to reach consensus.” Participant, South Africa

For more Info see

<http://climateinteractive.org/simulations/world-climate>

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