

Merchants of Doubt



Fiona Hall

Fiona Hall was a Member of the European Parliament for North East England (2004-2014) and leader of the UK Liberal Democrat MEPs (2009 - 2014). While she was an MEP, Fiona played a leading role on energy efficiency, renewables and CO2 reduction, including on the Renewable Energy Directive (2009), Energy Performance of Buildings Directive recast (2010), Energy Efficiency Directive (2012) and CO2 and cars legislation (2014). Fiona now works as an advisor on energy



Leo Hickman

Leo Hickman is the Director and Editor at The Carbon Brief. He previously worked for 16 years as a journalist, editor and author at the Guardian newspaper. Before joining Carbon Brief, he was WWF-UK's chief advisor on climate change. In 2013, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Exeter in recognition of his journalism.



Tom Brookes

Tom Brookes is Executive Director, Strategic Communications, and a member of the European Climate Foundation Executive Management Team. Based in Brussels, he works to advance the policy response to climate change, and has responsibility for external communications, public affairs, and political communications strategy for the ECF, its affiliates, and network. He is also a Senior Advisor, Global Communications Strategies for ClimateWorks Foundation.



Ulf Björnholm

Ulf Björnholm is the Head of the United Nations Environment Programme's Liaison Office to the EU and is an expert in European and international environmental policy. Prior to joining UNEP, he served in the European Commission where he had a leading role in developing a proposal for a new EU Clean Air Policy, presented in 2013. Linked to this, he participated actively in international UN negotiations relating to air pollution, including the UNEP-hosted Climate and Clean Air Coalition.



Christophe Verhellen

Christophe Verhellen is the Communications Officer for the Benelux at United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC). He started his career with the UN in 1992 when he worked as a Communication for Development Expert for the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Uganda. In 2011, he went on to work as the Head of Public Information for the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Afghanistan before joining the UNRIC Brussels team in 2014.

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

“Human influence on the climate system is clear. The more we disrupt our climate, the more we risk severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts. We have the means to limit climate change and build a more prosperous, sustainable future.” Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report, 2015

The IPCC was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

In other words, science tells us that climate change is real, potentially very harmful, and caused by human activity. There is alarming evidence that important tipping points, leading to irreversible changes in major ecosystems and the planetary climate system, may already have been reached or passed.

Addressing climate change is therefore central to the work of the United Nations. As the United Nations Secretary General has said, it is the major, overriding environmental issue of our time, and the single greatest challenge facing environmental regulators. It threatens economic prosperity, health and safety, food production, security, and other dimensions.

The good news is that the most dangerous climate changes may still be avoided if we transform our fossil fuel based energy systems and if we initiate rational and adequately financed adaptation programmes to avoid disasters and migrations at unprecedented scales. The tools are available, but they must be applied immediately and effectively. The upcoming Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris in December this year, provides a key opportunity to hammer out a global agreement to tackle climate change.

“The annual World Environment Day reminds people across the globe that it is our personal choices that shape the world around us. It is the opportunity for everyone to realize the responsibility to care for the Earth and to become agents of change,” Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme.

www.ipcc.ch www.unep.org www.unfccc.int



World Environment Day 2015
Seven Billion Dreams.
One Planet.
Consume with Care.
June 5

BO
ZAR
CINE
MA



JOIN US ON TWITTER @CINEONU AND TWEET ABOUT TONIGHT'S EVENT
USING THE HASHTAG #CINEONU