

NCSE: Combating Science Denial on the Home Front and Beyond

Minda Berbeco, Programs & Policy Director
Mark McCaffrey, climate literacy consultant,
Programs & Policy Director

History of NCSE



- Early 1980's created to counter creationism
- Genie Scott, Executive Director



Academic Freedom Acts

* First one: Alabama 2004:

“There has been an extensive debate on the subject of origins, the origins of life and matter, including, among other issues, the questions of how the universe came into existence, when did life begin, and from where did man come. Further, while there are predominate resources that address these questions with the position of evolution, there **are many other resources that provide alternative positions.** Perhaps, students will consider no other subject that will require as much study and critical thinking as the subject of origins.”

Academic Freedom Acts

- * Louisiana 2008:
 - * Climate Change was included
 - * Passed.
- * Tennessee 2011:
 - * Climate Change was included
 - * Passed.
- * 56 similar attempts across the country

Similarities Between Evolution & Climate Change

- * Academic Freedom Acts
- * Materials intended to create doubt
- * Similar techniques to undermine science:
 - * Science is bad
 - * The implications are evil
 - * It's only 'fair' to teach 'both sides'



Launch of Climate Change Program



October
2011

* Climate & Energy Literacy Summit



August
2012



Key Recommendations of the Summit

- ✓ Anticipate and effectively respond to science denial and manufactured doubt about climate change
- ✓ Back the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and emphasize teaching climate- and energy-related topics throughout the curriculum
- ✓ Conduct a nationwide survey of educators to determine if, where, and how climate change is being taught in schools
- * Support existing programs—and help fund new ones—that get K-16 teachers up to speed on climate and energy
- * Create a national initiative that binds all the relevant players to a common agenda, goals, and methods for measuring success

Additional Major Initiatives*

* You Heard About

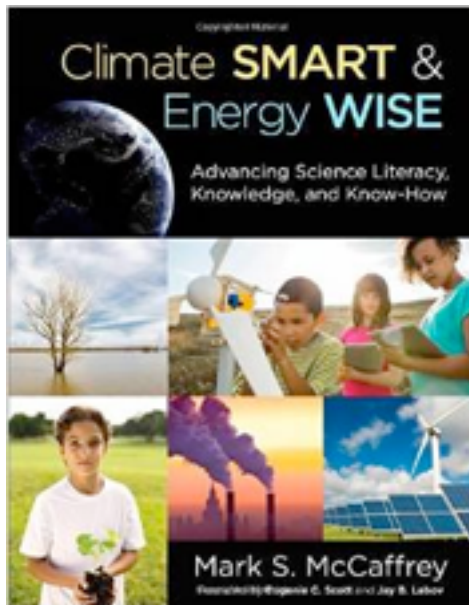
* National Climate Assessment: Learning Pathways



Additional Major Initiatives*

* You Heard About

- * [Climate Smart & Energy Wise](#)
- * Understanding Global Change



Major Initiatives*

* You Wouldn't Have Heard About

- * Grassroots **community** organizing to counter doubt and denial in science education.
- * But what does that look like?
 - * Phone call from teacher/parent/student
 - * Bad legislation
 - * Textbook reviews
 - * More examples...



Texas Textbooks

- * Texas was reviewing social studies textbooks
- * Many addressed climate change
- * Reviewed 25+ textbooks for scientific content
- * Several had misinformation about climate change
- * Created report for Texas Freedom Network to use
- * Talked to press, created talking points, worked with grassroots organizations within the state
- * Lead to all textbooks with issues retracting errors

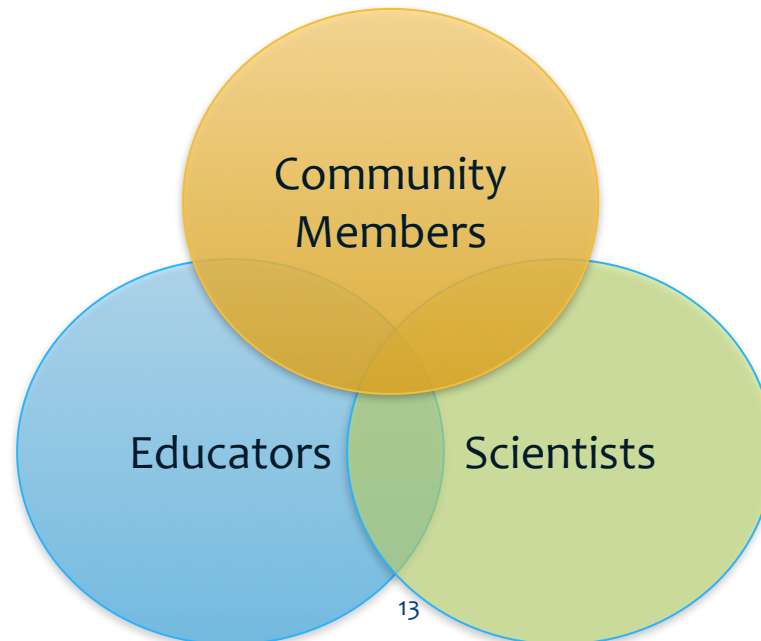


West Virginia NGSS Adoption

- * Unbeknownst to anyone, a BOE member inserted climate denial language into the NGSS standards before the board voted to adopt.
- * NCSE worked with the educational community & Climate Parents to:
 - * Get community members involved through petitions etc.
 - * Involve WVSTA, WVEA and other educators
 - * Garner national attention through media coverage
 - * Rally the scientific community to support the educators by contacting the governor, board members, press etc.
- * Still working with WVSTA for next steps...

NCSE's Plans for the Future

- * Continue to do this but expand out efforts
- * Stop chasing issues as they arise but get out in front of it.



How can NCSE work with you?

- * NCSE works collaboratively to counter science denial and doubt in public schools.
 - * Support educators when challenges arise
 - * Collaborate and advise on project development
 - * Connect with wider community to support educators



Beyond the Home Front

- * International Scope beyond NCSE's Focus
- * Mark has been involved with the International Polar Year Education efforts (2005-2010)
- * Currently on the Education Advisory Board of Climate KIC
 - * More on that in a minute...

Climate Literacy for All

ARTICLE 6:

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

In carrying out their commitments under Article 4, paragraph 1(i), the Parties shall:

(a) Promote and facilitate...

- (i) The development and implementation of educational and public awareness programmes on climate change and its effects;
- (ii) Public access to information on climate change and its effects;
- (iii) Public participation in addressing climate change and its effects and developing adequate responses; and
- (iv) Training of scientific, technical and managerial personnel.

1992



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change



United Nations

FCCC/CP/2014/L.1/Rev.1



Framework Convention on
Climate Change

Distr.: Limited
12 December 2014

Original: English

Reaffirmed at COP20 in Lima

Conference of the Parties

Twentieth session

Lima, 1–12 December 2014

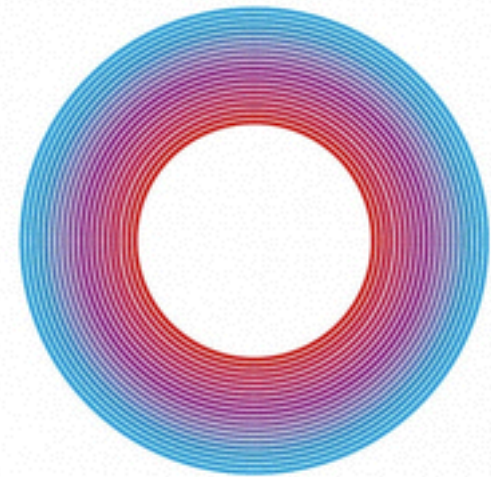
Agenda item 21

Other matters

The Lima Ministerial Declaration on Education and Awareness-raising

Draft decision -/CP.XX

Revised proposal by the President¹



LIMA COP20|CMP10



UN CC:Learn

The One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership

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Investing in People and Learning to Foster a Climate Resilient and Green Transition

UN CC:Learn News



Mr. Ramirez Tejada Calls for Climate Change

Partner News



WMO/IPCC Media Workshop Strengthens

Key Publications for COP20



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NEW: Interactive



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Climate Change



Climate Change

Essentials of Climate Change



The Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation: Navigating the Kyoto Project-Based Mechanisms

Languages: English

Themes

Climate Change

EDGE Green Building
Certification System

Forest Governance

Social Inclusion

Disasters and Ecosystems:
Resilience in a Changing
Climate

Education & Human
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Let's build a low carbon economy

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Welcome to Climate-KIC, the EU's main climate innovation initiative. Find out about our:

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South Pole Carbon Asset
Management Ltd

Projects

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Transition Cities

Start-Ups

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Courses



For students and

EIT COMMUNITY

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ACTIVITIES

What we do

COLLABORATE

Work with us

NEWSROOM

What's going on

INTERACT

Connect with us

EIT - Making innovation happen

Climate-KIC →

*Climate change mitigation and
adaptation*

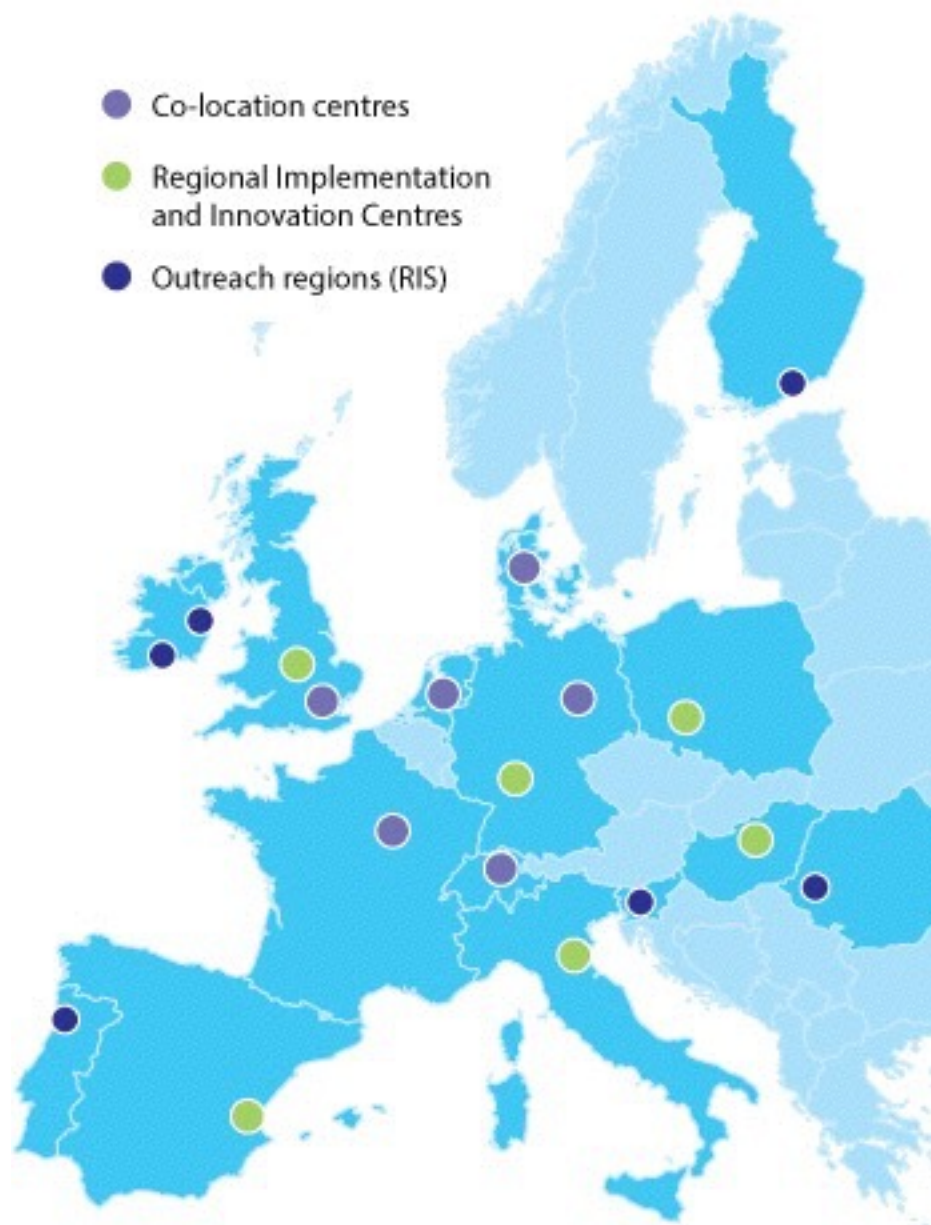
EIT Health →

*Healthy living and active
ageing*

EIT ICT Labs →

*Future Information and
Communication Technologies*





- Climate KIC works with universities and businesses throughout Europe

- Primary focus is Clean-Tech incubators at graduate level
- Budget in 2010- 3 million euros
- Budget in 2015- 93 million euros

Climate **SMART** & Energy **WISE**

Advancing Science Literacy,
Knowledge, and Know-How



Continue the Conversation

@McCaffreyMark
NCSE.com/blog
markmccaffrey.com

marksmccaffrey@gmail.com

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- * berbeco@ncse.com
- * @MindaBerbeco @NCSE

