

## Message from Jeff Sachs



[Real Video](#) (5:58)

[Quicktime Video](#) (5:58)

The Global Roundtable on Climate Change, a new three-year Earth Institute effort supported by the Lenfest Foundation, is working to find a consensus and a set of recommendations on how to handle one of the world's most complex issues — long-term, manmade climate change.

"This roundtable seeks to show the world's politicians that business leaders, environmental leaders, representatives of rich countries and poor countries, the private sector, the not-for-profit sector, civil society and religious groups can find an agreement on the crucial importance of action on climate that has an appropriate science and engineering based strategy and is fair, equitable, and efficient from the point of view of the world economy."

The first roundtable was held on May 11 and 12, 2005. The second roundtable is planned for this fall.



## Meeting of Global Leaders Aims for Consensus on Addressing Climate Change and World Energy Needs

## In the News

### Are Drought Conditions Improving in the West?

Rapid development in the Southwest in the 1970s-1990s corresponded with the area's wettest two decades in the past two thousand years. But for the past six years, the area has experienced drought conditions. Richard Seagar, Senior Research Scientist from the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, comments on this phenomenon. [From The Weather Channel, June 1, 2005](#)

### Hurricane Season Could Renew Global Warming Debate

Some government scientists, such as James Hansen of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, have said they are forced to downplay evidence of climate change, which most scientists link to industrial pollution. [From Reuters, May 30, 2005](#)

### Web Site Explains How Climate Change Affects New York City

"The purpose of this site is to inform decision makers, educators and the general public in urban areas about climate variability and change," said Cynthia Rosenzweig, a senior researcher at NASA GISS, and a co-principal investigator on the CCIR-NY project. [From PhysOrg.com, May 20, 2005](#)

### Can Earth Take the Heat of 'Global Brightening'?

"[The research is] a nice addition to the growing body of evidence" for the ties between so-called "global dimming" and man-made aerosols, says Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory's Beate Liepert. [From USA Today, May 13, 2005](#)

### The End of Poverty: An Interview with Jeffrey D. Sachs

"There haven't been too many stories in our press about Senegal, Ghana, Tanzania, Malawi, or Ethiopia, other than when the disasters hit," said Jeffrey D. Sachs. "And yet these are places that are in very deep trouble all of the time, but with largely solvable problems." [From Mother Jones, May 6, 2005](#)

### Economist Urges Americans to Do More to Fight World Poverty

Economist Jeffrey D. Sachs has taken on a tough task — convincing Americans that lifting 1 billion people out of extreme poverty is in their interest. [From The San Francisco Chronicle, May 8, 2005](#)

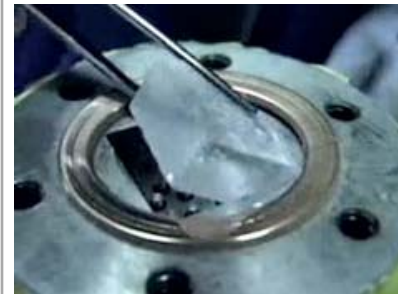
### Earth Has Become Brighter, but No One Is Sure Why

In a paper published on Science's Web site, James E.



## Mud Records New York History

Buried far beneath the cattails and blackbirds of marshes in the lower Hudson Valley are pollen, seeds and other materials preserved in marsh sediment in the Hudson River Estuary. By examining this material, researchers can see evidence of a 500-year drought, the passing of the Little Ice Age, and impacts of European settlers. [more](#)



Bubbles trapped in ice cores are tested to determine the concentration of greenhouse gases that were in the atmosphere. Data from Antarctic ice cores currently date back nearly 500,000 years.

## Living Beyond Uncertainty: A Special Climate Video

[Real Video](#) (6:31)

[Quicktime](#) (6:31)

Senior officials and leading scientists from nearly 100 businesses and business organizations, national governments, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions came together on May 11 and 12 for the first in a series of meetings to consider how to address the challenges posed by climate change. The Global Roundtable on Climate Change (GROCC), hosted by The Earth Institute at Columbia University and funded by the Lenfest Foundation, is a three-year effort aimed at forming an international, cross-sectoral consensus on core scientific, technological and economic issues critical to developing sound public policies related to climate change. [more](#)



Reporter Juliet Eilperin (center) shares journalistic experience with Andrew Revkin (left) of The New York Times and Allison Cobb (right) of Environmental Defense during a week-long environmental science workshop co-hosted by the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation.

### Political Reporter Goes Environmental

Juliet Eilperin is, by all accounts, a veteran political reporter. From 1998 to 2004, she covered the House of Representatives for The Washington Post. But after writing about the goings-on of Capital Hill for seven years, Eilperin wanted to switch to covering the global environment, and attended a week-long environmental science seminar for journalists hosted by The Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC), The New York Times Foundation and Nurture New York's Nature. [more](#)

### Special Events at The Earth Institute

**Friday, June 10, 7pm, Loews IMAX Theater at Lincoln Square**

Association for Women in Science benefit screening of James Cameron's documentary "Aliens of the Deep," with special guest speaker Maya Tolstoy, a research scientist at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory who was featured in the film. [Download pdf with more info](#)

### NOAA Fellows Partner With Scientists to Study Climate Change

Columbia University post-doctoral students like Sharon Stammerjohn, who received her Ph.D. in physical oceanography and climate from the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, have greatly benefited from a fellowship that partners recent graduates with scientists. This March, the program celebrated its 100th postdoctoral appointment. Through this fellowship, Stammerjohn will work at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) with David Rind, a scientist at GISS and a DEES professor, researching ocean warming and regional climates. [more](#)

Hansen of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies and his colleagues said much of the excess heat generated by global warming has been stored in the oceans. Even if no more greenhouse gases are added to the atmosphere, they said, Earth will continue to warm by 1 degree Fahrenheit over the coming decades, as the heat in the oceans is released into the air. *From The New York Times, May 6, 2005*

### New UNICEF Chief Endorses Sachs and MDGs

During the launch of the joint UNICEF-WHO world malaria report, new UNICEF chief Ann M. Veneman said, "I agree with the Millennium Project led by Jeffrey D. Sachs that we have the opportunity to make major strides in reducing the number of cases of malaria, and the number of deaths. Certainly we must do so if we are to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. We will work to ensure that UNICEF continues to do its part to combat a disease that kills children and undermines development." *From i-newswire, May 3, 2005*



A damaged two-story building with sound structural frame withstood the force of the tsunami better than the house in front, which was completely washed away. Photo credit: Guillermo Franco

### Studying the Tsunami Damage in Sri Lanka, Earth Institute Fellows See Ways to Mitigate

In the chaos of coordinated aid efforts and resettlement projects, four Earth Institute fellows travel through the southern coast of tsunami-damaged Sri Lanka, finding opportunities for mitigation and sustainable development. [more](#)

### A Strategy to Rapidly Determine the Magnitude of Great Earthquakes

A paper co-authored by William Menke of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory states that the delay in determining the magnitude of the Sumatra-Andaman Islands earthquake had significant consequences. But a reliable magnitude estimate — one that identifies the Sumatra-Andaman Islands earthquake as capable of causing a damaging teletsunami — can be achieved. [Download pdf from EOS, May 10, 2005](#)

### The Earth Sciences, Human Well-Being, and the Reduction of Global Poverty

by John C. Mutter, Deputy Director, The Earth Institute

A new understanding of poverty is emerging in which natural and environmental drivers, together with social, political and demographic causes, underpin livelihoods. The earth sciences, therefore, play a critical role in identifying the deep causes of human suffering and in identifying solutions. [Download pdf from EOS, April 19, 2005](#)

### Center for Research on Environmental Decisions Launched

From microscopic bubbles of air trapped in ice to supercomputers running month-long simulations, scientists use a wide range of tools to tease apart the inner workings of the Earth's vast and complex climate system.

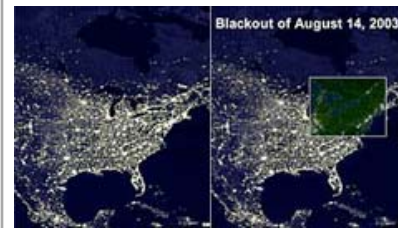
In this video, four Earth Institute scientists briefly explain what we know about the Earth's climate, what remains to be fully understood, and what lies in store for society as we move into the uncertain world of a future in which humans are becoming the dominant force behind climate change.

**Peter deMenocal** briefly describes what we know about the Earth's past climate and how that helps us begin to understand the future. deMenocal is Associate Professor of Earth & Environmental Science at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

**Gavin Schmidt** explains how climate models work and what they can tell us about the future. Schmidt is a research scientist at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

**Maxx Dilley** presents how a changing climate is likely to impact society. Dilley is Director of the Africa Program and Research Scientist in Disaster and Risk Management at the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI).

**Klaus Lackner** outlines some of the energy options that will help us reduce human impact on the Earth's climate. Lackner is Ewing Worzel Professor of Geophysics in the Department of Earth and Environmental Engineering.



### Spotlight on Research: ConEd and Columbia Work to Prevent Power Outages

What can one of the world's most advanced systems of electricity delivery teach other growing urban power grids about reliability, performance and responsiveness to increasing demand? According to Roger Anderson, a Doherty Senior Scholar with the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory unit of Columbia's Earth Institute and a specialist in energy management systems, plenty. [more](#)

### Climate Scientist Leaves IRI for UNDP

Maxx Dilley, Director of the Africa Program and Research Scientist in Disaster and Risk Management at the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI), has accepted a new leadership position in disaster and risk management with the United Nations Development Programme in Geneva, starting July 1, 2005. [more](#)

### Earth Institute Receives Support From Rockefeller Brothers Fund and The Countess Moira Charitable Foundation

The Countess Moira Charitable Foundation granted a \$350,000 endowment to The Earth Institute for projects that help put countries on the path to sustainable development. [more](#)

The first Ph.D. program in Sustainable Development in the United States, established at Columbia last year, recently received a \$120,000 grant from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. The grant will provide meaningful support

## Comments and Suggestions

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A new center to investigate individual and group decision making under climate uncertainty and environmental risk has been created with a five-year National Science Foundation (NSF) grant of \$5.9 million. The Center for Research on Environmental Decisions (CRED), based at Columbia University, celebrated its official launch in a ceremony at Low Library on Wednesday, May 4, 2005.  
[more](#)

to at least two graduate students over a three-year period. [more](#)

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