

Message from Jeff Sachs



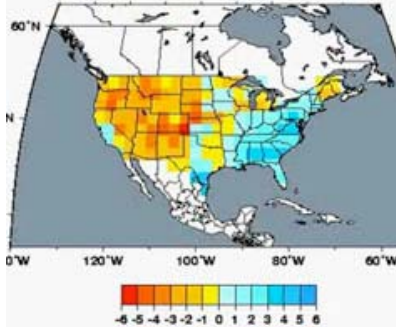
Real Video (8:33) 

Jeffrey D. Sachs, director of the Earth Institute talks in this video about the outcomes of the Earth Institute retreat held on September 30. Discussion focused on core disciplines and cross-cutting initiatives, and several key EI initiatives. At the retreat lunch, Provost Alan Brinkley fielded questions on the growing role of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. [more](#)

Drought in the West Linked to Warmer Temperatures

Severe drought in western states in recent years may be linked to climate warming trends, according to new research led by scientists from the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of The Earth Institute at Columbia University, and published in the journal *Science*. [more](#)

Scientists Reconstruct the History of Drought for North America



Not enough is known about what triggers major droughts, yet they occur all across North America often having greater economic and social impacts than any other type of natural disaster. Researchers from the

In the News

The Miami Herald, October 30, 2004

"In the U.S., we turn to insurance, disaster-management agencies and local and regional organizations to rebuild our communities. In Haiti and other poor places, this safety net is unimaginable, much less available. The poorest of the poor deserve better," writes John Mutter, Deputy Director of the Earth Institute, in this editorial.

The New York Times, October 26, 2004

"It is time to stop waffling so much and say the evidence is pretty strong that the greenhouse effect is here," says James E. Hansen, director of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies, in his criticism of the Bush administration's climate change policy.

The Wall Street Journal, October 22, 2004

"CO₂ is harmless, odorless, and uninteresting from every point of view except that it could wreck the global environment," said Jeffrey D. Sachs, director of the Earth Institute, in this article on Earth Institute research by energy expert Klaus Lackner, a physicist with the Earth Institute.

The Wall Street Journal, October 22, 2004

The melting of 80% of Mt. Kilimanjaro's ice cap "suggests something about today that is very unusual," says Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory climatologist Peter deMenocal.

Wired, October 25, 2004

National Geographic, October 22, 2004

Maya Tolstoy, a marine seismologist at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, uncovered some evidence of tidal/earthquake links on the bottom of the ocean.

The Columbia Spectator, October 20, 2004

In a talk entitled "Resurrecting Empire: American Policy in the Middle East," the first in a series of lectures organized by the Earth Institute, Professor Rashid Khalidi argued that America's presence in Iraq was doomed to disaster because it was based on a stubborn dismissal of Middle Eastern history.

The New York Times, October 17, 2004

Nowhere has the clash between scientists and the Bush administration been more intense or sustained than in the area of climate change. James E. Hansen, director of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies, is featured in this article.

The Columbia Spectator, October 20, 2004



New Technical Support Center Puts Theories into Practice Enacting Millennium Development Goals to Reduce Global Poverty by Half

The Millennium Project has kicked into high gear with only a few months remaining until final recommendations are due to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in January, 2004.

An independent advisory body housed at United Nations Development Programme headquarters in New York, the Millennium Project is directed by Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs of Columbia University. It was born of the 2000 UN Millennium Summit and endorsed by 189 world leaders to cut global poverty in half by 2015. [more](#)



Earth Institute Launches its First Millennium Village — A New Approach

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory have used 835 annual tree-ring chronologies based on measurements from 20,000 to 30,000 tree samples across the United States, Mexico and parts of Canada to reconstruct a history of drought over the last 2005 years. [more](#)



Dangerous Anthropogenic Interference: A Discussion of Humanity's Faustian Climate Bargain and the Payments Coming Due

by James E. Hansen, Director, Goddard Institute for Space Studies

"I have been told by a high government official that I should not talk about 'dangerous anthropogenic interference' with climate, because we do not know how much humans are changing the Earth's climate or how much change is 'dangerous.' Actually, we know quite a lot. Natural regional climate fluctuations remain larger today than human-made effects such as global warming. But data show that we are at a point where human effects are competing with nature and the balance is shifting." [more](#)

Special Events at the Earth Institute

EVENT Sunday, November 7, 11-5 p.m.

[Center for the Study of Science and Religion Conference: "Love and Its Obstacles"](#)

EVENT Thursday, November 11, 6-8 p.m.

["Waste Not: What to Do with Waste?" Part of the New York City Initiative Panel Series](#)

EVENT Thursday, November 11, 4-6 p.m.

["Energy Resources: Is Sustainable Development Feasible?" Speaker: Klaus Lackner, Ewing-Worzel Professor of Geophysics, Earth and Environmental Engineering](#)

EVENT Monday, November 15, 6-8 p.m.

[Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director, the Earth Institute: "Economic Policy Priorities for the Next Administration"](#)

EVENT Tuesday, November 16, 1-3 p.m.

[Speaker: Noam Chomsky: "Illegal but Legitimate — A Dubious Doctrine For the Times"](#)

Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute, speaks to students about the future of energy and issues of urgency.

[more recently in the media](#)

Earth Institute's Earth Clinic Opens for Business

The Earth Institute's Earth Clinic provides prescriptions to developing countries to relieve immediate economic and environmental problems and put them on a path of sustainable development. Much of the Earth Clinic's work stems from current Earth Institute research projects that have developed interventions ready for application in the field. Additionally, the Earth Clinic will address the many requests the Earth Institute receives each month from presidents, prime ministers, and ministers of finance, environment, health and agriculture, among others, for science-based assistance to extremely urgent issues of economic development, public health, energy systems, water management, agriculture and infrastructure. [more](#)



2004 CERC Conservation Scientist Awardee Wins Nobel Peace Prize

An annual event in May 2004 celebrating the founding of the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC) honored Professor Wangari Maathai, who received this year's Nobel Peace Prize. [more](#)

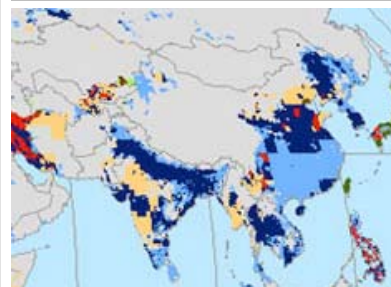


Fellowship For Women Scientists to Work Within Earth Institute

The Advance Program of the Earth Institute at Columbia University will award several Marie Tharp Fellowships each year to promising women scientists, providing an opportunity for them to conduct research at one of the centers or related departments within the Earth Institute for a period of one to three months during their career-building years. All application materials must be

to Ending Global Poverty

The Earth Institute at Columbia University is launching its first Millennium Village, a new global approach to lift developing country villages out of the poverty trap that afflicts more than a billion people worldwide. Located in western Kenya near Lake Victoria, Sauri is a village of 4,648 people with a strong community system, but lacks the revenue for the basic services necessary to sustain economic growth. [more](#)



Global Natural Disaster Hotspots

Earth Institute project assesses disasters and risks to increase investment

A collaborative project assessing natural disasters and the risks to human populations and economic activity will provide a quantitative basis for risk-conscious investments in sustainable development worldwide. The final report, "Global Natural Disaster Risk Hotspots," will be published by The World Bank this winter. [more](#)

New Data System to Improve Geoscience Research

A team from the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University has received funding from the National Science Foundation to develop the first international digital registry to provide unique identification of solid earth samples. "The Solid Earth Sample Registry (SESAR) will address the urgent need for unique sample identifiers so that sample-based data can be shared and preserved," says project leader Kerstin Lehnert. [more](#)



Top EPA Administrators Share Experiences and "War Stories" With MPA Class

Two high-level Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrators shared their expertise and war stories with MPA students during class. Both speakers worked for New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman during challenging times in New Jersey state government and in the U.S. EPA. [more](#)

Meteor Craters, Water Quality, Fault Zones Are Topics of Columbia Scientists' Presentations at 116th Geological Society Annual Meeting



Simulating the Creation of the Earth's Core, With the Help of Great Gray

Hidden beneath 2,600 kilometers of rock, the Earth's core is a liquid iron sphere, about eight times bigger than the moon, which flows around an inner shell of solid iron and generates the Earth's magnetic field. Liz Cottrell (above), a scientist at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, is working on research that could confirm the process by which it formed. [more](#)

Comments and Suggestions

Contact our [editor](#)

Past issues

postmarked or dated by 5 p.m. EST on January 3, 2005. [more](#)

CU Open House Draws Hundreds Interested in 26 Columbia Programs in Sustainable Development and Environmental Education

On October 28, 2004, over 200 people attended the Columbia University Open House for Degree Programs in Sustainable Development and Environmental Education to meet faculty and learn about 26 accredited degree and certificate programs. Programs ranged from undergraduate to postdoctoral level, and included newly initiated degrees in sustainable development and climate and society. [more](#)

The annual meeting of the Geological Society of America is the principal forum for presentation and discussion of the latest ideas in geoscience education. Columbia University scientists are making 13 presentations at this year's meeting in Denver, Colorado, on November 7, 2004. [more](#)

New Study Reveals Hidden Pattern in Genetics of Indian Elephant Populations

The first population genetic study of free-ranging Asian elephant populations has unexpectedly revealed that elephants in Southern India evolved into two genetically distinct groups thousands of years ago. The discovery has important implications for elephant conservation strategies in India. [more](#)