Help Create Success In Copenhagen
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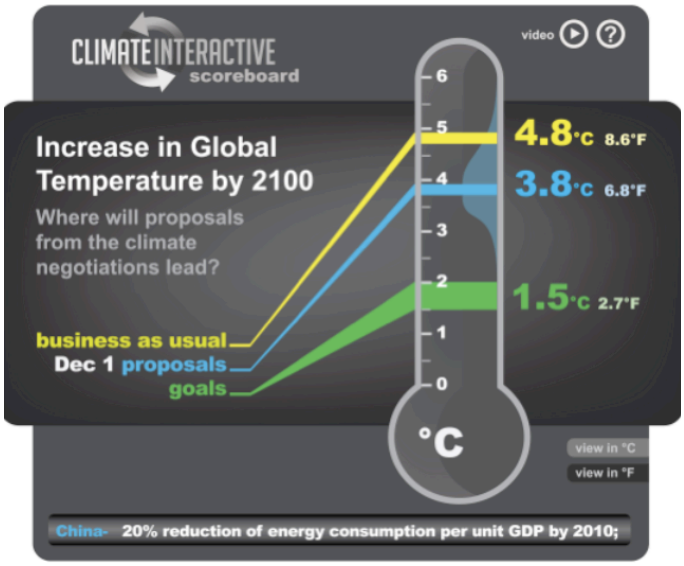
1 December 2009

You will find us everywhere around the world – ordinary people wanting, working, hoping for success at the upcoming climate summit in Copenhagen. Now, with the summit almost upon us, a new tool has emerged that could reinvigorate our efforts.

We've been educating, writing, watching, marching and doing whatever else we can think of over the past year (or longer), investing in the summit that could, with enough political will and global cooperation, forge a climate agreement strong enough to protect communities, ecosystems and future generations from avoidable climate change.

It is not time to rest yet. If we want to see success in Copenhagen, and if we define success as a global agreement sufficient to protect people and other species everywhere well into the future, then there is still a huge and critical role for us. We are the ones who can focus attention on the likely long-term consequences of the negotiations. We can monitor whether the collective effort being proposed is enough to achieve the goals that have been put forth. Until the day when formal institutions pick up the role of monitoring and communicating how close the negotiations are to achieving their goals – to bring CO_2 levels back towards 350ppm and limit temperature increase to 1.5° to 2.0°C – no one is better placed for the job than we are.



The Climate Scoreboard shows the progress of the global climate negotiations.
Visit http://climateinteractive.org/scoreboard to view the scoreboard or to add it to your own blogs and websites.

This week, the Climate Interactive program partners, Sustainability Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Ventana Systems, are releasing a unique new tool that allows people around the world to do precisely this sort of monitoring and communication.

Called the Climate Scoreboard, it is an embeddable widget that people can include in blogs, websites, press releases, newsletters, and more. It shows, in a simple visual form, the expected temperature in 2100 if current proposals in the global climate negotiations were fully implemented, and shows how close those proposals bring us to achieving climate goals. It is based on analysis using a computer simulation of climate change, but designed to be simple to understand and easy to share.

The Scoreboard uses the same technology you might use every day to check the weather forecast for your city. In that case, forecasters at the weather station update their predictions for the coming days, and the icon on your computer desktop changes to show the new forecast. In the case of the Climate Scoreboard, when negotiating positions change, a team in Copenhagen will immediately update the analysis of the long-term consequences. In real time, around the world, wherever the Scoreboard is posted, the 'score' will update – showing both the progress that has been realized and the effort still required to achieve the 1.5°-2.0° goal.

Right now the Climate Scoreboard shows that proposals on the table in the run-up to Copenhagen would be strong enough to prevent some temperature increase compared to a scenario with no action. But current proposals don't yet achieve the emissions reductions needed to achieve the 1.5° - 2.0°C goal.

That's why sharing the Scoreboard is an essential way to contribute to progress at the Copenhagen summit and in the months that will follow. Without something like the Scoreboard it is simply too easy for the negotiations to remain focused on the political challenge of dividing up the climate change effort, without really asking if the proposed effort is large enough in the first place.

Citizens around the world could, with determination and creativity, use the Climate Scoreboard to offer a reality check for the negotiations. Imagine if delegates in Copenhagen saw the image of the Scoreboard posted every day when they entered the conference center. Imagine if Presidents, Prime Ministers, and legislators received copies of it in emails and letters. Imagine if reporters used the Climate Scoreboard to show their readers how far the negotiations have come and how far they have yet to go.

What's needed now is a very quick and very wide dispersal of the Scoreboard, so that gap between the effort that has been pledged so far and the effort that is actually needed can be made clear across all sectors of society and in countries around the world. The first step towards shrinking that gap is to name it and make it visible. The Climate Scoreboard can help you and your networks contribute to this essential task.

Please download the Scoreboard and use and share it in whatever ways you can. Share it widely and quickly, so that during Copenhagen and beyond as many people as possible, citizens and leaders alike, can know the climate score, and act accordingly.

The Climate Scoreboard widget and video as well as the science and analysis behind the Scoreboard can be found at http://climateinteractive.org/scoreboard.

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