

**EMERGING WORKPLACE HAZARDS: Creating Adaptable  
and Innovative Safety and Health Training**

May 2–4, 2023 / Indianapolis, Indiana



**WORKSHOP SESSION SUMMARY**

**POST-CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS**

**1. Session Title and Presenter's Contact Information:**

Workshop number and title: 72. Climate Change Science, Climate Crisis Solutions, and Worker Education

Presenter (s) Name: Thomas Estabrook

Presenter Organization: The New England Consortium – Civil Service Employees Association

Presenter Email: Thomas\_Estabrook@uml.edu

**2. Workshop Summary:**

How do we bring climate science into our worker training discussions? Climate scientists have been communicating the deepening climate crisis for decades, but the more recent message from a growing chorus of climate scientists of necessary, fundamental, radical transformation of our energy systems and political economy is being watered down, even suppressed by governments and fossil fuel companies, as was the case in the 2022 6th Assessment Report from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. What is our role as worker health educators in engaging each other, our trainees, and the community in critical conversations about climate science and primary prevention (“do no harm”) as an operating principle in building a climate safe world? This workshop will: 1) briefly present current climate science and the call by many scientists for systemic transformation; 2) provide a popular education exercise for participants to address this problem and what worker health & safety educators can do engage trainees, fellow educators, and the broader community in exploring the climate crisis and what we as educators, our various communities, and government can do to help bring about fundamental change through climate justice, Green New Deals, Just Transition, and other strategies.

**3. Methods:**

After a brief presentation of key climate science concepts and related economic concepts, participants will engage in a popular education exercise to address the climate crisis and what worker health & safety educators and community members can do to help bring about change. After a 20-minute presentation, done in an interactive way, we moved to a small group activity where the small groups addressed: How do we communicate the dire climate situation? How do go beyond doing disaster preparedness to talk about organizing to save the climate? As educators, how will you organize your union, your organization, your town about the urgency of the moment. What will you do? What policies will you be advocating for?

This was a rich discussion, with much engagement from the workshop participants. People seemed to be really, really interested in wanting to talk about what the climate scientists are saying, their own fears about the future, and what we need to be doing about the climate crisis now. This topic holds

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much importance for us as worker health educators and community educators and leaders. Some folk expressed that one hour was simply not enough to address this material.

#### 4. Main Points/Key Points Raised from Participants:

##### Presenter's main points:

- The climate science is clear that we are facing an epic climate and ecological crisis right now and that radical, fundamental transformation of society, the economic system, energy, agriculture, transportation, etc. is necessary as soon as possible in order to avoid climate and ecological catastrophe.
- The idea that every town and city should be holding emergency climate meetings every week is an important proposal.
- The role for worker health educators as community leaders/organizers/educators was proposed and discussed.
- The small group discussions addressed what the climate scientists (IPCC leaked Summary for Policy Makers and Mitigation Working Group report) are now telling us, and what we as educators should be doing about this.

##### Participants' key points:

- Information, team and small group discussions encourage conversations for climate change
- Great information, created great conversation, thought-provoking
- The summary of climate concerns generated great discussion
- Most valuable was understanding and reframing climate change into action
- Everything was valuable
- Background info was valuable
- Small group exercise was most valuable
- Most valuable was the discussion about solutions
- Improve it by suggesting how to incorporate this into the training we do.
- Wish it was longer
- The workshop created stress (about the future)

#### 5. References:

Carbon Brief's definitive guide to the entire IPCC sixth assessment cycle

- <https://www.carbonbrief.org/carbon-briefs-definitive-guide-to-the-entire-ipcc-sixth-assessment-cycle/>

IPCC's conservative nature masks true scale of action needed to avert catastrophic climate change

- <https://theconversation.com/ipccs-conservative-nature-masks-true-scale-of-action-needed-to-avert-catastrophic-climate-change-202287>

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Dmitris Stevis. 2023. *Just Transitions: Promise and Contestation*

- <https://www.cambridge.org/core/search?q=9781108947008>

Ian Angus. 2017. *Facing the Anthropocene: Fossil Capitalism and the Crisis of the Earth System*. Monthly Review.

Kate Aronoff et.al. 2019. *A Planet to Win: Why We Need a Green New Deal*. Verso.

*How vested interests rewrote the IPCC's latest report*

- <https://climateandcapitalism.com/2022/04/28/how-vested-interests-rewrote-the-ipccs-latest-report/>

*Advance Release! The Leaked IPCC Reports*

- <https://mronline.org/2021/09/08/advance-release-the-leaked-ipcc-reports/>

IPCC. *Climate Change 2022 – Mitigation of Climate Change*.

- [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGIII\\_FullReport.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_FullReport.pdf)

*Scientists deliver 'final warning' on climate crisis: act now or it's too late*. The Guardian, Mar. 20, 2023.

- <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/mar/20/ipcc-climate-crisis-report-delivers-final-warning-on-15c>

*From climate change 'certainty' to rapid decline: a timeline of IPCC reports*. The Guardian, Mar. 20, 2023.

- <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/mar/20/from-climate-change-certainty-to-rapid-decline-a-timeline-of-ipcc-reports>

*What You Need to Know About the Boston Green New Deal*

- [https://www.clf.org/blog/boston-green-new-deal/?gclid=CjwKCAjwxr2iBhBJEiwAdXECw0ZcAWZte0zz4TX9QVCoSP4qIYTg8QhBmbjJ2H96WTdTk9LQIYX36xoC0T0QAvD\\_BwE](https://www.clf.org/blog/boston-green-new-deal/?gclid=CjwKCAjwxr2iBhBJEiwAdXECw0ZcAWZte0zz4TX9QVCoSP4qIYTg8QhBmbjJ2H96WTdTk9LQIYX36xoC0T0QAvD_BwE)

W. Steffen, et.al. 2018. *Trajectories of the Earth System in the Anthropocene*

- <https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.1810141115>

*1.5°C warming may trigger multiple tipping points*

- <https://climateandcapitalism.com/2022/09/13/1-5c-warming-may-trigger-multiple-tipping-points/>

*Noam Chomsky and Robert Pollin: Green New Deal Is Essential for Human Survival*

- <https://truthout.org/articles/noam-chomsky-and-robert-pollin-green-new-deal-is-essential-for-human-survival/>

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*A Response to Pollin and Chomsky: We Need a Green New Deal without Growth*, by Jason Hickel

- <https://www.jasonhickel.org/blog/2020/10/19/we-need-a-green-new-deal-without-growth>

*Degrowth can work — here's how science can help*, by Jason Hickel and others, *Nature*, Dec. 12, 2022.

- <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-04412-x>

**6. Workshop Handouts/Resources:**

*[can be attached separately]*