

==> **HOW URGENT IS THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY?** <==

- **WHAT SHOULD THE CITY DO?**
- **WHAT SHOULD RESIDENTS DO?**

After recognizing the existence of a climate emergency on May 11, 2009, the Cambridge City Council will hear from scientists about why climate is changing, what impacts to expect, and what response is needed at a Special Meeting of the Council at City Hall on September 24th at 5:30 pm.

Speakers will be:

- **Dr. Melanie Fitzpatrick** of the Union of Concerned Scientists
- **Dr. Jill Stein** of Physicians for Social Responsibility
- **Dr. Frank Ackerman** of the Stockholm Environmental Institute at Tufts University
and
- **Dr. John Sterman** of MIT Sloan School of Management.

***If you want Cambridge to be a leader in responding to the global emergency,
—Come to the hearing on Sept. 24 to let the City Council know, and
—Please forward this notice to friends.***

Background:

- Last March, more than 2,500 climate experts from 80 countries, assembled for an emergency meeting in Copenhagen to prepare for the UN Climate Change Conference in December, declared that
 - "the climate system is already moving beyond patterns of natural variability within which our society and economy have developed and thrived;"
 - "the worst-case IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) scenario projections (or even worse) are being realized;"
 - "there is a significant risk that many of the trends will accelerate, leading to a risk of abrupt or irreversible climatic shifts;" and
 - "*there is no excuse for inaction.*"
- In December 2002, the City of Cambridge adopted a Climate Protection Plan with the goal of reducing the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) city-wide 20% below 1990 levels by 2010.
- **Despite the efforts of City staff and others the City has fallen far short of this goal.**

For more information see <http://greencambridge.wikispaces.com/Calendar+of+Events>
The meeting should appear on Cambridge cable TV channel 8.