

Beacon Hill Seminars – Spring 2018

# Climate Vulnerability:

Responding to the Physical, Economic & Social  
Challenges of Earth's Changing Climate

## Session 1

How Vulnerable Are We? Where  
Can We Turn To Learn?

7 March 2018

Timothy C. Weiskel

Transition-Studies

Cambridge Climate Research Associates

Spring Semester 2018



## Climate Vulnerability: Responding to Earth's Changing Climate

Tim Weiskel

Wednesdays, March 7 - April 25 3:30 - 5:30 8 sessions

The Engineering Center, One Walnut Street

# Climate Vulnerability: Responding to Earth's Changing Climate

The Engineering Center, One Walnut Street

# Climate Vulnerability

## Beacon Hill Seminars - 2018 Program

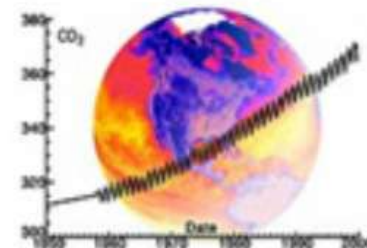
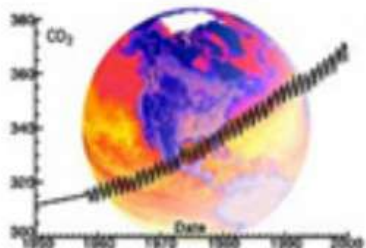
Responding to the Physical, Economic &  
Social Challenges of Earth's Changing  
Climate

conducted by

Timothy C. Weiskel

Research Director, Cambridge Climate Research Associates and  
The Citizen-Science Online Learning Initiative (CSOLI)

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# Other topic areas we propose to pursue over the next 7 weeks are these

- The Challenge of Sea-Level Rise: The Case of Florida - Immediate and Longer-Term Vulnerability
- The Challenge of Sea-Level Rise: The Post-Columbian City and Vulnerability Around the World.
- The Climate Vulnerability of Fresh Water Supplies and Public Health
- The Climate Vulnerability of Agriculture and The Global Food System

# Other topic areas we propose to pursue over the next 7 weeks are these

- The Climate Vulnerability of Local and National Infrastructure & Energy Systems
- The Climate Vulnerability of National Security and the Stability of International Relations.
- Where Can We Turn To Learn About Climate Vulnerability in Boston? How Can We Become Involved in Shaping Our Future?

Each week the slides and supporting material for each session will be posted on the [Syllabus link](#) for that week

*So, for today...*

How Vulnerable Are We?  
Where Can We Turn To  
Learn?

*“One if by land...”*





*“Two if by sea...”*



*“One if by land...”*

How vulnerable are we from the  
land in Boston?



*“Two if by sea...”*

How vulnerable are we from the sea  
in Boston?



## Online Resource Materials

- [climate-boston.tv](http://climate-boston.tv)
- [climate-boston.com](http://climate-boston.com)
- [climate-boston.org](http://climate-boston.org) and
- [climate-boston.net](http://climate-boston.net)

and the YouTube Channel

- [Climate Boston](#)

and the [CCRA's Directory](#).



Climate Boston

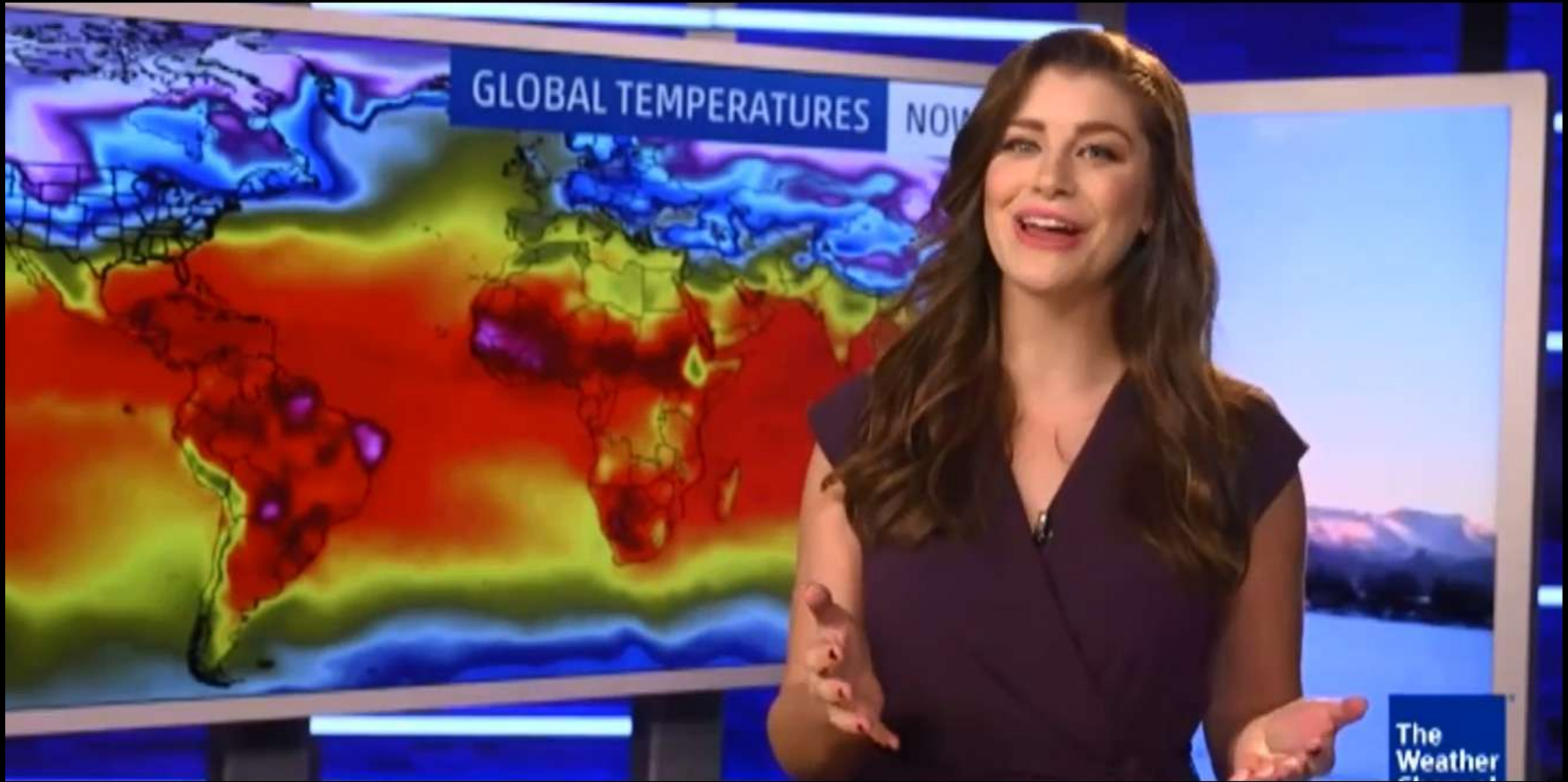


[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Km\\_aJFoots](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Km_aJFoots)

[Excerpt from "Greater Boston" - WGBH, 5 March 2018]



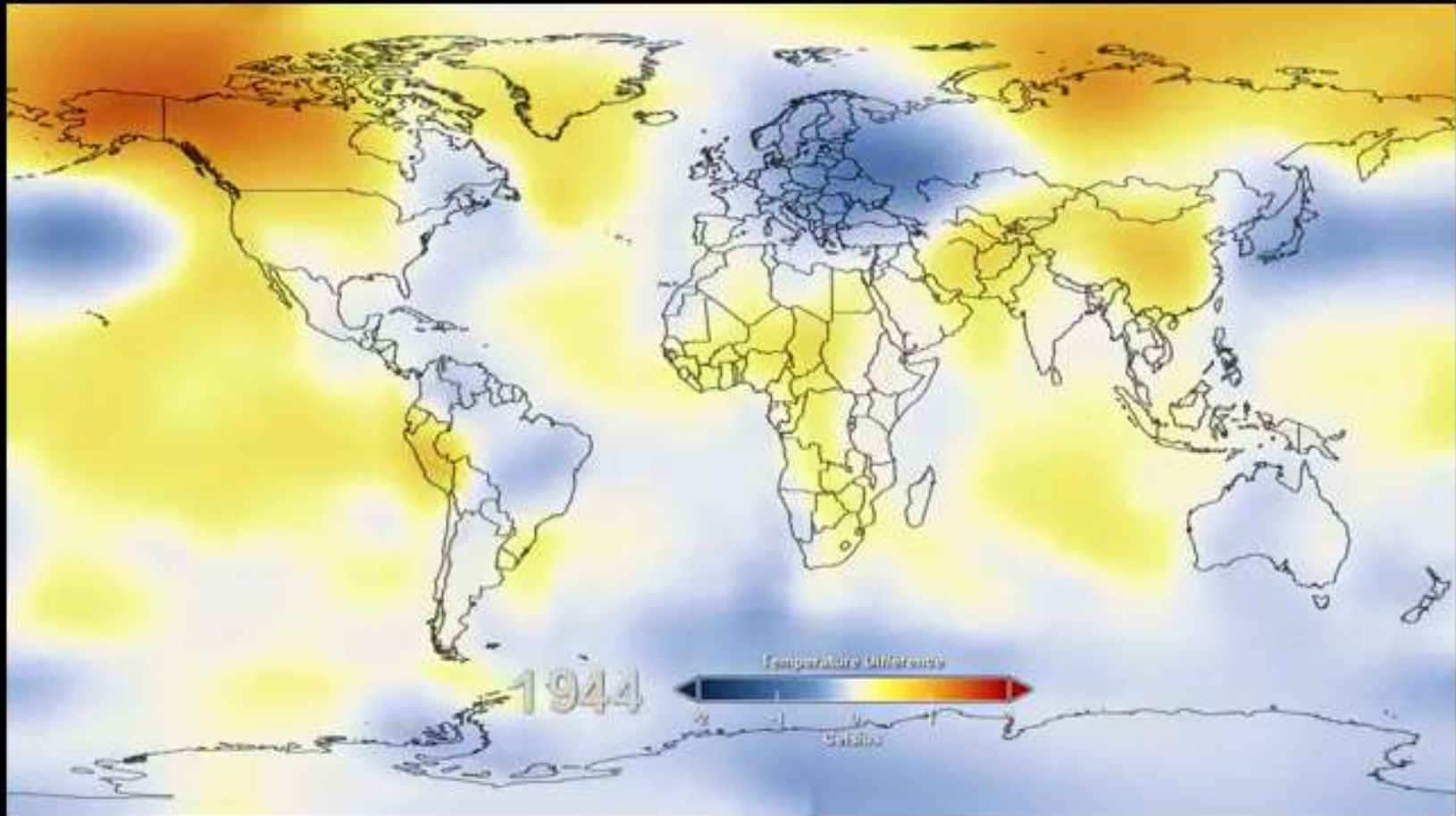
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6uKjPFtCjs>



<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2018/03/07/weather-channel-scientist-shreds-climate-denier-garbage/>



# Let's look at the whole globe over recent history

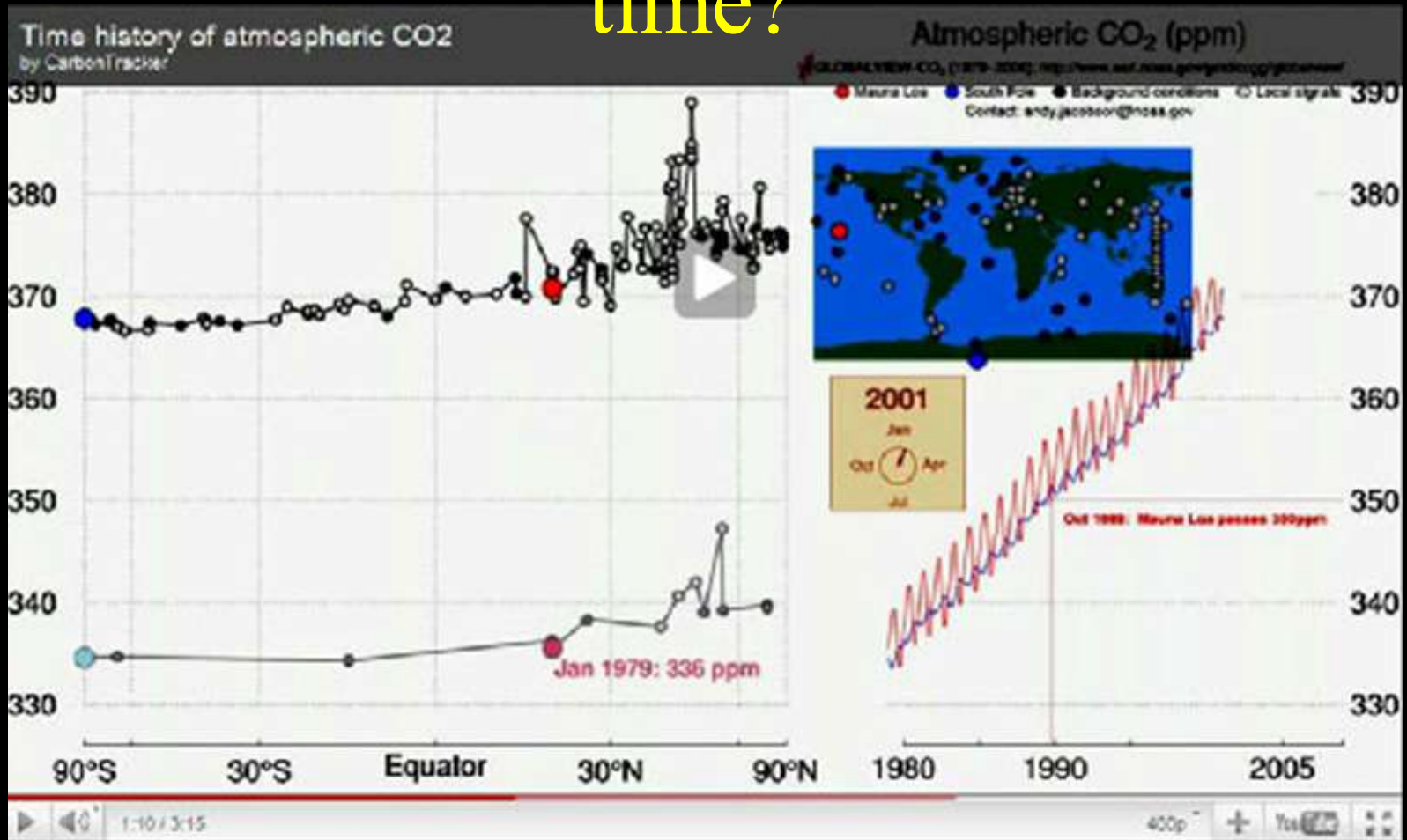


<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2014/10/23/earth-heating-1884-2012/>

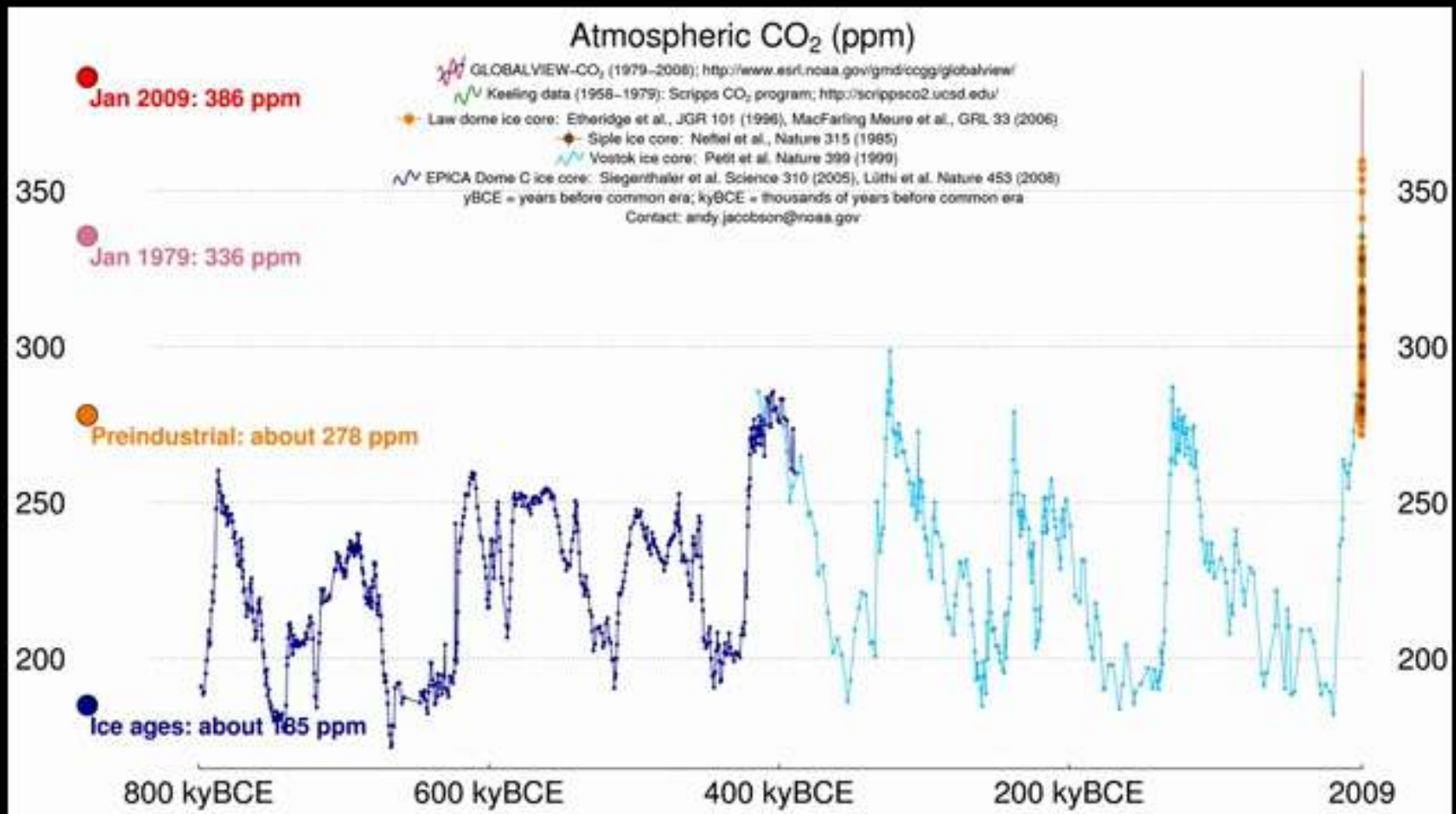
In fact, let's step back and take the long view ....  
from afar...

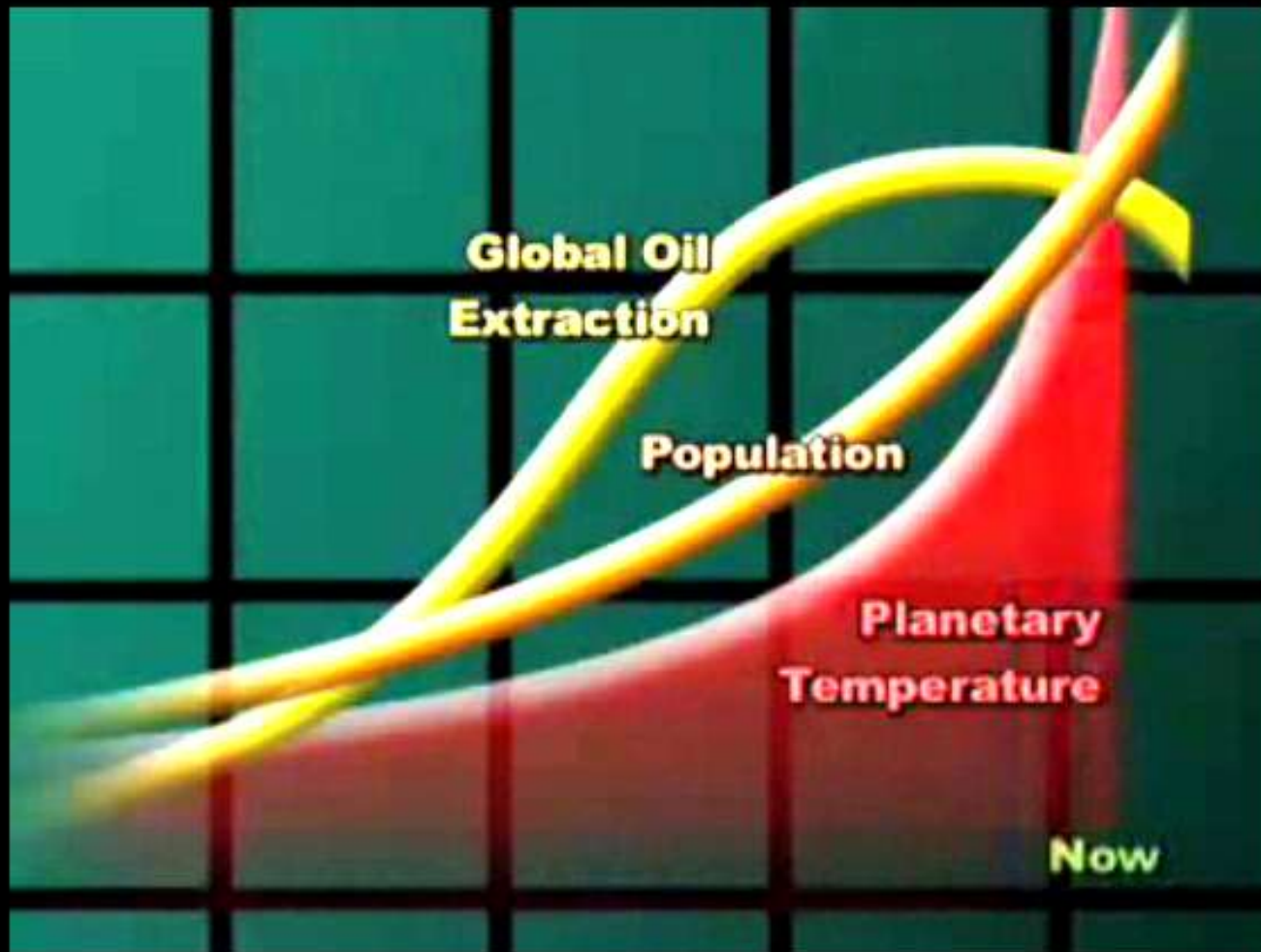


# What can we learn from “deep time?”



# Actually, we can learn a lot...





*The Context for Transition Studies*  
*Global Trends from 1900 to 2008*

# Second Thoughts about First Principles...



Sir Nicholas Stern

With climate change “free-market” advocates have constructed a global system that has lead to what **Sir Nicholas Stern** has called:

*“...the greatest market failure the world has ever seen.”*

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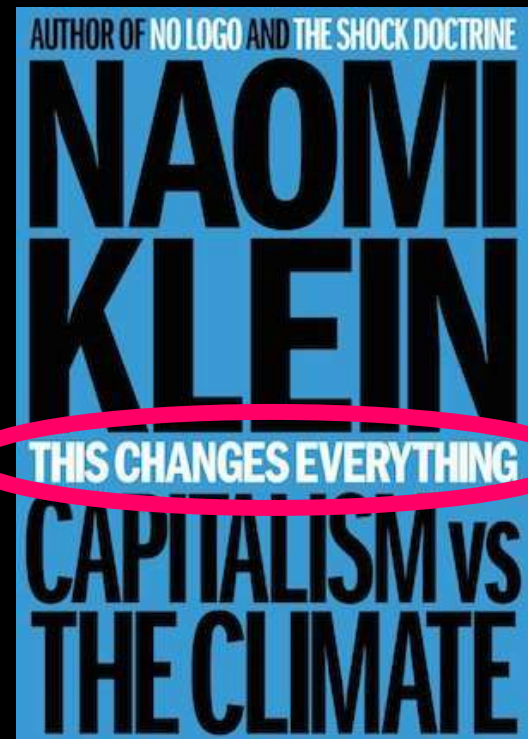
*(....Is it time to re-think the “free market” principles...?)*



<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2015/01/22/atomic-scientists-doomsday-getting-even-closer/>



# Moving Toward the Transition: Climate Change, Capitalism and then: What Comes Next...?



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AUTHOR OF NO LOGO AND THE SHOCK DOCTRINE  
**NAOMI  
KLEIN**  
**THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING**  
**CAPITALISM VS  
THE CLIMATE**

**BHS** beacon hill  
seminars  
121 Mount Vernon Street  
Boston, MA 02108  
617 523 0970

...and compelling (Daily Planet Guardian)  
  
**ecological  
debt**  
Global Warming & the Wealth of Nations  
**Andrew Simms**  
second edition

*Could play a key role...*



## Study: Sea-level rise threatens 1,400 U.S. cities

Posted on [August 11, 2013](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



(Photo: Peter Morgan, AP)

Wendy Koch, USA TODAY 6:54 p.m. EDT July 29, 2013

# Study: Sea-level rise threatens 1,400 U.S. cities

Posted on August 11, 2013 | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



(Photo: Peter Morgan, A

Wendy Koch, USA TOD

## Re-Viewing Boston by the Sea

Consider the global problem...



If the Beacon Hill Seminar participants could take on this issue as a citizen's challenge, they could truly serve the world as a "City on a Hill" to model how other global cities might best address this emerging global problem.



# Is this a “new” problem?

Severn Cullis-Suzuki speaking at Rio in 1992



# Is this a “new” problem?...Not really

Severn Cullis-Suzuki speaking at Rio in 1992







<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2017/11/20/severn-cullis-suzuki-the-speech-that-silenced-the-world-for-5-minutes/>



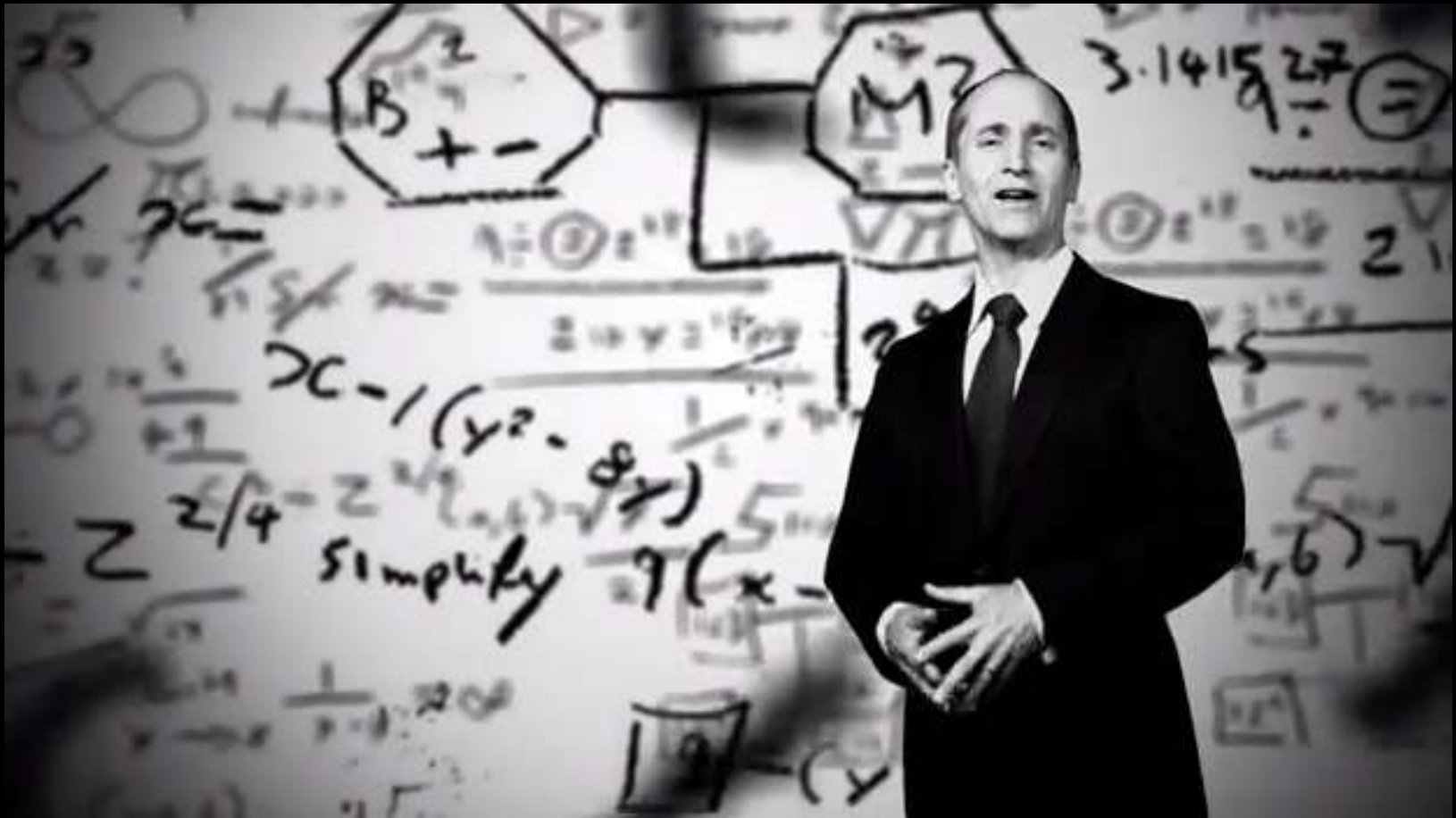
*“...a betrayal of the future of all children and our grandchildren on this planet.”*

<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2017/05/03/climate-of-denied-opportunity-at-copenhagen-3/>

But youth continued to demand action from the “grown-ups” in Durban.



<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2013/07/21/get-it-done-urging-climate-justice-youth-delegate-anjali-appadurai-mic-checks-un-summit/>



If the oil companies presented their  
*real* message ...

<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2015/01/05/exxon-hates-your-children-2/>



Some think the problems are 30 years away  
....What does that mean?

<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2018/03/08/train-global-warming-ad-ad-council/>

But what happens when they find out about their objective circumstance?



<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2014/06/02/angry-kid/>

We need to keep the long view in mind...



We need to keep the long view in mind...  
and the moonlight (Sonata) might help





There is no “Planet B.”



There is no “Planet B.”

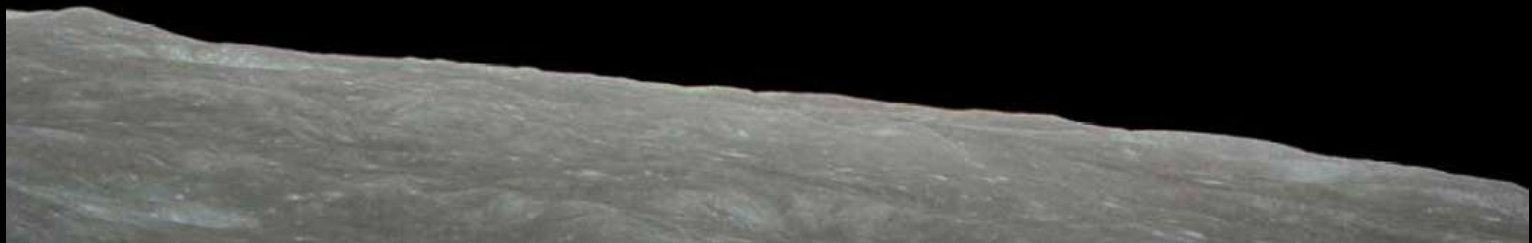
We only have one Earth.



There is no “Planet B.”

We only have one Earth.

We only get one chance.



There is no “Planet B.”

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# **Climate Vulnerability: Responding to Earth's Changing Climate**

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Thank you....

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