



For more information, contact:
Kim Curtis
415.397.5000 ext. 305
kim@resource-media.org

Extreme Weather 2008 Year-end Round-up

Nation's Top Climate Experts Weigh in on 2008's Severe Weather

Every year, extreme weather is big news across the United States and 2008 was no exception. Given the scientific consensus that some types of extreme weather will become more severe because of our warming climate, we asked top meteorologists and climate scientists across the country to identify the Top 10 extreme weather events of 2008 and explain how those events may or may not have related to global warming.

Their responses included the record-breaking hurricanes in the Atlantic, deadly Midwest flooding, an unprecedented number of tornadoes and costly California wildfires.

While the Top 10 extreme weather events of 2008 all were linked to multiple factors, most were affected in some way by human-induced warming. According to leading climate scientists, hurricanes were stronger and more frequent, heat waves and droughts were more intense or longer-lasting, floods came early and often.

Attached please find the Top 10 list, the experts' explanations of the connections to climate change, links to the consensus science reports addressing each phenomenon, as well as, contact information for experts in each field.

Experts include:

- Robert W. Corell, Vice President of Programs at The John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics and the Environment
- Stu Ostro, meteorologist and The Weather Channel's senior director of weather communications
- Peter Schultz, director of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program Office
- Kevin Trenberth, head of the Climate Analysis Section at the National Center for Atmospheric Research and lead author of the 2001 and 2007 United Nations IPCC report.