

British Broadcasting Corporation BBC Television Publicity
Television Centre Wood Lane London W12 7RJ



Strict embargo: not for use before 12.00 noon on Tuesday 14th January

BBC INVITES VIEWERS TO PREDICT THE UK'S FUTURE CLIMATE

The BBC is to screen a major season of programmes on the science behind and issues surrounding the hottest topic of the day - Climate Change.

To launch its *Climate Chaos* Season the BBC, in conjunction with Oxford University and the Open University, is inviting its audience to participate in the biggest online experiment ever undertaken to predict the future climate of the UK.

By logging on to bbc.co.uk/climatechange (live from February 14th) viewers will help scientists project possible climate scenarios for the UK up to the year 2080.

Meltdown and a unique experiment

The first stage of the *Climate Chaos* season kicks off on February 20 when BBC Four screens *Meltdown*, a film in which explorer and presenter Paul Rose shows the effects of global warming in Greenland and tells the story of climate changes in the UK. Paul meets Oxford scientist Myles Allen and learns about his work predicting how the UK's climate will change. At the end of the film Paul invites viewers to participate in the unique experiment by logging onto the BBC website.

Those logging on will be taken by Paul through steps to download a piece of software which connects to a server at Oxford University, and which downloads an individualised version of the Met Office's state-of-the art global climate model.

The climate model will use the computer's spare processing time – when the user is not actively working on it but still has it switched on - to make calculations and produce a possible future climate scenario for the UK. Once the programme is downloaded the user doesn't have to do anything - the computer does all the work, and uploads data back to Oxford automatically.

Those participating can keep track of what is going on by bringing up graphics that show them what year their individual model has reached, and what the temperature is. They can also set the graphics as a screensaver.

Back in Oxford, scientists will collate the results which will be revealed in a follow-up programme in the summer. Participants can join the experiment at any point- even after the programme has transmitted – but the earlier the better. A standard off-the-shelf computer takes around three months to run the complete simulation to 2080, but project scientists can make use of runs as short as ten model years, taking only a week or so, and the more people participate the more accurate a prediction they will be able to make.

Climate Chaos

Meltdown will be followed in the same week by *Climate Conspiracy or Global Catastrophe?* which explores the truth behind global warming headlines and *Reports from the Front Line of Global Warming* a series of short eyewitness accounts of living with global warming, all on BBC Four.

Together with the BBC Four results show the *Climate Chaos* season returns in the summer with a whole week of programmes across BBC Television channels.

On BBC One Sir David Attenborough undertakes a personal investigation to discover how global warming is changing our world. In a two-part documentary he scrutinises the evidence and asks crucial questions about how and why global warming is affecting the planet. *Panorama* investigates the reasons behind President Bush's rejection of the scientific consensus around climate change. Is it Big Oil talking or is he right to resist what one of his supporters has described as 'the biggest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people'? And viewers can gauge their individual knowledge of climate change matters with a special *Test the Nation*.

On BBC Two *The Money Programme* looks at the economics of going green; *If...The Oil Runs Out* asks what we can do about our 'addiction to oil'; and a special film shows how six cities across the globe are preparing for climate change.

Horizon examines the case being made for nuclear power.

In addition to individual programming there will be contributions from BBC news and weather; from children's programme and from the BBC interactive sites and pages.

Says Jana Bennett, BBC Director of Television: 'We know from research that climate change is a subject many viewers are concerned about and regard as a major problem for themselves and the next generation and yet they also feel that they don't know enough about it. They look to television, in particular, to inform them and help them make sense of it.'

The Climate Chaos Season seeks to engage and inform viewers about Climate change – with programmes across our networks in the biggest interactive season of science programmes ever."

For more info contact: Kim Creed, BBC Factual Publicity,
020 8 752 6496/07802 210972

For more info on the experiment contact: Myles Allen/Sylvia Knight/Dave Frame, Oxford University:
01865 272088 / 01865 272887