



# Tinkering with the Temperature of Planet Earth:

A Citizen's Assessment of Cloud Whitening Technologies to combat global warming

Welcome to the 2011 Citizen's Conference on cloud whitening to combat global warming.

We have invited you to take part in a Citizen's Conference on cloud whitening technology because Congress needs to learn about your views on what should be done about applying this particular form of geoengineering to combat global warming.

Congress has convened a special session to enact legislation that will accelerate the pace of current research and development in cloud whitening technology—technologies that aim to lower global temperatures by reflecting sunlight back into space.

Following considerations have contributed to this decision:

- Copenhagen climate accord failed short of reaching the desired global agreement about taking the necessary comprehensive measures for combating climate change.
- Congress failed to enact comprehensive legislation aimed at reducing carbon dioxide emissions in the United States.
- There has been a significant increase in the frequency of extreme climate events such as floods, hurricanes and droughts in recent time period.
- Certain climate change models show significant rise in temperature even with significant reduction in carbon dioxide emission.
- There have been some limited experiments to indicate the viability of cloud whitening technologies.
- A coalition of scientists and environmental groups have combined forces to argue in favor of research and development of geoengineering technologies such as cloud whitening as a viable complement to other efforts to combat climate change.

Recognizing that Global warming has impacts for almost all people around the world and geoengineering interventions will have uneven and unintended consequences, the network for Expert and Citizen's Assessment of Science and Technology (ECAST) is organizing this conference to collect views from the ordinary citizens.

In this conference you will share your views with fellow citizens. You will also get an opportunity to ask questions of each other and from experts involved in the field. At the end of your discussions you will be asked to present your consensus view in the form of a written and oral testimony to a special Congressional panel.

The attached documents provide basic information and links to resources about climate change, geoengineering and cloud whitening technology.

“Science informs us. It does not tell us what to do. The choice is ours.”

We hope you will take this important opportunity to share with Congress your views about measures that will have dramatic consequences not only in your lives, but also those around the globe and those yet to come.



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## Project Timeline:

Monday, September 27  
(TJ Room 215)

### Briefing and overview of the project

- Distribution of background material
- Group members, representative and recorder assignment
- *Assignment #1*: Read background material and come prepared to discuss in class on Sep 29.

Wednesday, September 29  
(TJ Room 215)

### Initial face to face deliberation in class within groups

- Answers questions about social, ethical, legal concerns
- Discuss these concerns within group members
- Identify areas where more information is needed
- *Assignment #2*: List questions to ask experts

Monday, October 4 – 8  
(Remote Access)

### On line deliberation

- Post on-line questions for experts and follow up as necessary
- *Assignment #3*: Review on-line discussion and come prepared to discuss them in class on October 15.

Friday, October 15  
(TJ Room 215)

### Final face to face deliberation in class

- Review and discuss list of concerns
- Develop recommendations around them
- Identify, prioritize and draft recommendations for Congress
- *Assignment #4*: Prepare written (email by Monday, October 18) and oral testimony (5 minutes) for Congressional Committee

Tuesday, October 19  
(Woodrow Wilson  
International Center for  
Scholars Room TBA)

### Testimony to Congressional panel and public

- Group representative present oral testimony to Congressional Committee (5 minute each)
- Group representative answers questions from members of Congress and general public