

*Kuehnast Lecture Series*

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# Beyond Global Warming: Yes or No

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National Center for Atmospheric Research  
Boulder, Colorado**

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Modern society attempts to predict all manner of future events, from hurricane tracks to oil price trends to asteroid impacts - in order better to prepare for them. Growing capabilities in science and technology - especially the ability of computers to rapidly process massive amounts of data - underlie these efforts to foretell the future. Thus, it is no surprise that scientists, policy makers, and issue advocates have together concluded that the primary response to human-caused global climate change - popularly called "global warming" - should be based on an assumption that scientific research can accurately predict various climate futures. Alternative emissions scenarios differentiate these various projections. A further assumption is that more research can reduce uncertainty in climate change predictions and thus drive a political consensus on needed action to prevent future climate impacts on environment and society. Based on these assumptions the U.S. Congress has appropriated in the past decade more than \$20 billion to reduce uncertainty through improved predictions. This talk examines the assumptions of prediction and prevention that underlie the present response to climate change and suggests that they are flawed, and perhaps even leading to climate policies destined to fail. The talk suggests an alternative approach to responding to climate change, and the resulting implications for science, policy, and issue advocacy.

OPENING REMARKS ..... DR. MARK SEELEY  
PROFESSOR AND EXTENSION CLIMATOLOGIST  
DEPARTMENT OF SOIL, WATER, & CLIMATE

FAMILY INTRODUCTIONS .....DOYLE KUEHNAST  
EDEN PRAIRIE, MN

MN CHAPTER OF SIGMA XI.....DR. SAGAR KRUPA  
PAST PRESIDENT  
MN CHAPTER OF SIGMA XI

N.W.S. AWARD RECOGNITION .....DEAN BRATZ  
HYDROLOGIST IN CHARGE  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, NCRFC  
LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS  
GORDON WOLD, SANTIAGO, MN - 40 YEARS  
GILBERT TEWIS, NEW ULM, MN - 35 YEARS  
GRACE AND ROBERT WHITTET,  
REDWOOD FALLS, MN - 30 YEARS

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER .....DR. RICHARD SKAGGS  
PROFESSOR  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

KEYNOTE SPEAKER ..... DR. ROGER A. PIELKE, JR

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