

Module 1 Study Guide: Introduction to Interpreting Climate Change

In this module, you will learn/think about your role as an interpreter of climate change at your site and within your agency. You will identify opportunities to overcome the challenges of communicating with the public about this critical and often controversial issue, and begin to consider a personal interpretive strategy. Estimated time to complete the basic components for this module is 2-3 hours.

How to Use this Study Guide

This study guide is designed for self-directed, self-paced learning and interaction. You can engage as much or as little as you prefer. The study guide is designed to help you work through a progression of learning in which you 1) *investigate*—study the recommended content, 2) *contemplate*—create your own relevance through intentional reflection, 3) *actuate*—apply the concepts to a personal work strategy and then, importantly, 4) *collaborate*—contribute to a conversation in a community of practice to broaden your understanding and encourage your colleagues. So the more you put into it, the more you will get out of it!

For **non-NPS participants** — we believe that the concepts and best practices described in this curriculum are useful to all interpreters and you are invited to fully participate. In this module, some of the content is intended to help NPS interpreters understand their agency's climate change strategy. Although that strategy is broadly relevant to you as a citizen, you are also encouraged to seek out/investigate the climate change policies, plans or strategies within your own organization as well, and apply that information as you consider the application of this module to your work.

Investigate

Contemplate

Actuate

Collaborate



Module Objectives

After completing the activities in the Module 1 Study Guide, you will:

- Know that you are not alone – you have the support of your colleagues in this course of study — and, for NPS interpreters, you have the support and encouragement of your agency’s leadership.
- Determine a proactive response to overcome your most significant personal barrier, challenge or bias related to climate change communication.
- Begin to identify a personal strategy for incorporating climate change into your own interpretive products at your site.

Investigate

Apply a spirit of inquiry and learning to the following assignments:

Note: links may open slowly from within this document – alternatively, you can right-click copy and then paste the URLs in your browser)

- Watch the video:
[Climate Change in National Parks--the Role of Interpreters](#) (7 minutes)
- Read the [Learning Companion--Introduction to Interpreting Climate Change](#) (12 pages)

Contemplate

Ponder the personal relevance of what you have learned by considering the following questions... journal your thoughts in the space below (use as much space as you need).

1. As a citizen looking at the NPS Climate Change Response Strategy, what do you think/feel about the role and responsibility of the NPS to address climate change?

2. Based on the remarks of the agency leaders in the video, what role could (or do) interpreters at your site play in communicating with the public about climate change?

3. On a scale from 1-10 what is your confidence level in interpreting climate change at your site? Describe at least one proactive way you will work to increase your confidence (reference the list of barriers and responses in the curriculum reading for ideas).
4. Identify your personal biases on climate change. How might this influence the way you engage with your audience on climate change?

Actuate

Put learning and thinking into action with the following assignment:

Write a paragraph briefly articulating your personal commitment or credo for interpreting climate change. Why do you want to interpret climate change and how do you envision engaging audiences at your site?

Collaborate

Share your assignment (from the Actuate section above) with your colleagues by creating a post on our “Climate Coffeehouse” [Facebook page](#) — copy/paste your Personal Commitment paragraph (see the [Collaborate tab](#) on the IDP website for additional instructions)

Read what your colleagues are saying.

Respond to one other post.

For Further Investigation: Additional Resources and References

Hungry for more? Check out some of the following additional resources:

(links may open slowly from within this document – or you can right-click copy/paste URLs)

- *Who's Got Your Back?* [Empowerment through Leadership Support PowerPoint](#)
- White House Climate Change Homepage: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/energy/climate-change>
- DOI Climate Change Homepage: <https://www.doi.gov/climate/>
- NPS Climate Change Homepage: <http://www.nps.gov/subjects/climatechange/>
- NPS Sustainable Operations Homepage: <http://www.nps.gov/sustainability/>
- NPS National Climate Change Interpretation and Education Strategy (NCCIES): <http://www.nps.gov/subjects/climatechange/nccies.htm>
- NPS NCCIES Communication Toolkit: <http://www.nps.gov/subjects/climatechange/toolkit.htm>
- Public Understanding of, and Attitudes Toward, Scientific Research: what we know and what we need to know (Miller 2004). This article represents two decades of research on science literacy in America.
- Communicating Effectively About Climate Change & Health (Maibach 2015). This article discusses the importance of “simple clear messages” when communicating about climate change.
- [*Audubon Tools of Engagement: A Toolkit for Engaging People in Conservation*](#)
- [*Support for climate policy and societal action are linked to perceptions about scientific agreement.*](#) This article examines the relationship with belief in scientific consensus on climate change and public support for government action.
- NPS Climate Change Response Strategy: http://www.nps.gov/orgs/ccrp/upload/NPS_CCRS.pdf
- NPS Climate Change Action Plan: http://www.nps.gov/orgs/ccrp/upload/NPS_CCActionPlan.pdf
- Four Key Messages: <http://www.nps.gov/subjects/climatechange/upload/NPSKeyClimateChangeMessages.pdf>
- Secretarial Order 3289: <http://www.doi.gov/whatwedo/climate/cop15/upload/SecOrder3289.pdf>
- NPS Green Parks Plan: <http://www.doi.gov/whatwedo/climate/cop15/upload/SecOrder3289.pdf>
- The 2015 Paris Climate Agreement: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/paris-climate-change-conference/12047233/Paris-climate-change-agreement-at-a-glance.html>