SSUN ENERGY SUMMER SCHOOL

PUBLIC LECTURE

Climate Change and its Implications for our Energy Future

The scientific information on climate change is increasingly sophisticated, with a stronger and stronger body of evidence on observed trends, underlying mechanisms, and possible futures. Recently published papers help reduce the uncertainty associated with important feedback mechanisms related to clouds, sea ice, and the land surface. The emerging picture is one of a climate system pushed by recent human activity at the upper end of recent projections, and with a sensitivity to this pushing that covers a range of possible outcomes, including some at or above the high end of recent projections. High levels of inertia in the climate and in the global energy system both point to a brief period for aggressive action, for a reasonable level of confidence in holding long-term, global-average warming to less than 2°C or other widely-discussed targets.

Chris Field
Director, Carnegie Institute of Washington &
Professor, Biology & Environmental Earth System Science,
Stanford University

August 18, 2009, 7pm

SLAC Campus/Panofsky Auditorium
2575 Sand Hill Road
Menlo Park, CA

SIMES GCEP Precourt Institute for Energy NREL