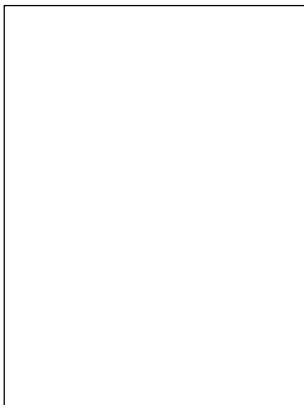


3. **SCIENCE:** Intrepid British climate modeler sets out to win over doubters *(07/19/2011)*

Jeremy Lovell, E&E European correspondent

LONDON -- David **Stainforth**



Climate modeler David Stainforth.
Photo courtesy of David Stainforth.

well as the London School of Economics. There is also the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment -- headed by Lord Nicholas Stern, whose report on the economics of climate change in 2006 electrified governments worldwide on the issue.

Trying some interactive games

Using literature and interactive games at the [Confidence in Climate](#) website, the project sets out to show how probabilities work and why different models may come up with quite widely differing predictions. It then applies this to a composite of theories and observations on the climate conundrum.

"When you make a decision about the future -- whether it is based on theory or observation -- it is a sort of gamble. You can never know what is going to happen. When we make decisions about how to tackle climate change it is no different," the website says.

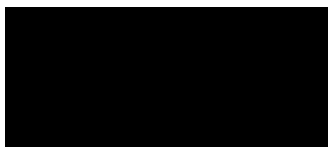
"Because of the uncertainty we can't be sure exactly what degree of challenge we will face. None the less, some things are clear -- uncertainty doesn't mean ignorance. ... We also know that bigger increases in atmospheric greenhouse gas levels are likely to lead to much bigger impacts; the impact of a 4 degree warming is likely to be more than twice the impact of a 2 degree warming," it adds.

As for Stainforth, he thinks the debate urgently needs to be widened considerably from the rather restricted inner core of scientists, modelers, meteorologists and statisticians who have monopolized it to date.

"We need ecologists, farmers, doctors, anthropologists, sociologists, engineers, psychologists, hydrologists, social scientists. The climate change problem involves everyone and should therefore include everyone," he said.

"We have to grasp the nettle here and communicate openly the uncertainty, to explain what is uncertain, where, why and to what degree. We don't want it split into 'believers' and 'unbelievers'; we want people to understand."

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