

Speaker at Ramapo College to Explore the Implications of Climate Disruption

MAHWAH, NJ -- On Thursday, March 26 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Dr. Kevin Trenberth will present a lecture, "Climate Disruption in the U.S.," at Ramapo College of New Jersey. The event is sponsored by the North Jersey Public Policy Network, in collaboration with the Masters Program in Sustainable Studies at Ramapo College.

Dr. Trenberth is a distinguished senior scientist in the Climate Analysis Section at the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

"Climate change is the defining issue for our generation," said Dr. Ashwani Vasishth, associate professor of Environmental Planning and director of the Master of Arts in Sustainability Studies program at Ramapo College. "Historians will look to what we do now, in the face of this challenge, as they seek to tell our story."

Numerous public and private studies in recent years have examined the risk to ecosystems and livelihoods if global temperatures and sea levels rise worldwide.

"Human-induced climate change is looming as one of the biggest challenges to humanity over the 21st century," said Dr. Trenberth. "We are not doing enough to slow it down, nor are we doing enough to plan for the consequences. Meanwhile we are already experiencing major costs through droughts, heat waves, wild fires, more intense storms and heavy rains and snows. Why aren't we doing more?"

"NJPPN is about educating on important issues and providing the public with evidence based information," said Rhoda Schermer, Chairperson of North Jersey Public Policy Network. "For our time and the future of our children, it is imperative that we understand the science behind climate change and its relationship to extreme weather."

Robert Kopp, associate director of the Rutgers Energy Institute and an Associate Professor in the Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences at Rutgers University–New Brunswick, will serve as moderator.

The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. To register, visit www.njppn.org. For more information, contact Stephen Summers of NJPPN at 201-444-1913 or at info@njppn.org, or Ashwani Vasishth at vasishth@ramapo.edu

Ramapo College's Master of Arts in Sustainability Studies (MASS) is a ground-breaking program that unites the social sciences, the natural sciences and business to develop leading practitioners in the emerging field of sustainability. For more on the program, see: <http://ramapo.edu/mass>.