



SPARC Outreach

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Goals of SPARC Outreach

“SPARC is seeking to build a boundary organization that can promote productive interaction among stakeholder groups”

- Who is our audience?
- Who are we trying to reach?
- Who are the stakeholders?

SPARC Activities – SPARC Brochure



SPARC conducts research, education and outreach to improve the ability of climate science policies to support climate-related decision making



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Science Policy Assessment and Research on Climate

Over the past 25 years, U.S. science policy has allocated tens of billions of dollars to reduce uncertainty about future climate behavior with the expectation that the resulting scientific knowledge will enable, support, and improve climate policy decisions. The effectiveness of this strategy hinges upon the relationship between *science policy decisions* and *climate policy decisions*. Several important questions emerge in evaluating the effectiveness of this relationship, such as: How does the nation's multi-billion dollar investment in climate research affect those decisions? How can the societal value of this scientific investment be enhanced? How are climate science topic areas currently prioritized, and how do decision maker needs affect these priorities? These are the core organizing questions for Science Policy Assessment and Research on Climate (SPARC) which conducts research and assessment, outreach, and education aimed at helping climate science policies better support climate-related decision making in the face of fundamental and often irreducible uncertainties.

Science policy decisions are defined as those concerned with governing the climate science research enterprise. We distinguish such decisions from *climate policy decisions*, which are those made in anticipation of or in response to climate change.

The relationship between science policy decisions and climate policy decisions has not been systematically examined. SPARC will help fill this gap. The SPARC research agenda focuses on two themes:

- *Reconciling Supply and Demand for climate research, or how research agendas are developed and user demand for research assessed, and*
- *Sensitivity Analysis: how specific issues are prioritized given the multiple causes of global environmental change.*

There are currently four SPARC research projects under these themes:

• Climate Science Policy in the Regional Integrated Science and Assessment (RISA) Program

In April 2002, the House Science Committee held a hearing to explore the connections on climate science and the needs of decision makers. The Science Committee's hearing highlighted the role of the NOAA Regional Integrated Science and Assessment (RISA) as a promising means to connect decision making needs with the research prioritization process.

The RISA program is ongoing for 10 years and has developed a significant body of experience in working to establish a two-way connection between decision makers and

interdisciplinary science and assessment. This experience provides a rich resource for drawing lessons from the various RISA projects on setting science priorities, implementing research, and the resulting output transferred to operational agencies in support of the needs of decision makers.

• Reconciling Supply and Demand-Carbon Cycle Science Activities

RSD-Carbon Cycle project goals are to build knowledge of the needs of potential carbon cycle science users (demand), understand the current priorities, justifications, and activities of the U.S. carbon cycle science community (supply), and improve the ability of supply to meet demand by developing practical ways for setting priorities, directing science activities and building institutional capability.

• Ecosystem Function Sensitivity Analysis Activities

The goal of the Ecosystem SA activity is to investigate the relative magnitude of various causes of environmental change in order to better understand the relation between changing ecosystem functions and the priorities of ecosystem science portfolio. This project will address issues such as factors (natural and anthropogenic) influencing the function of ecosystems, how research priorities compare to the known importance of various impacts on ecosystem function. We hope to use the results of the sensitivity analysis to quantify the relative significance of various causes of impacts on ecosystem function.

• Extreme Events and Climate Change Sensitivity Analysis Activities

The goal of the Extreme Events and Climate Change activity is to investigate the relative magnitude of various causes of the growing societal impacts of weather and climate extremes in order to better understand the relation between the needs of decision makers and the priorities expressed in the climate science portfolio. This project will address factors influencing the increasing costs of disasters, and how research priorities compare to the relative influence of such factors on outcomes of interest to decision makers.

SPARC is a joint project of the University of Colorado's Center for Science and Policy Technology Research and the Arizona State University's Consortium for Science, Policy, & Outcomes, sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

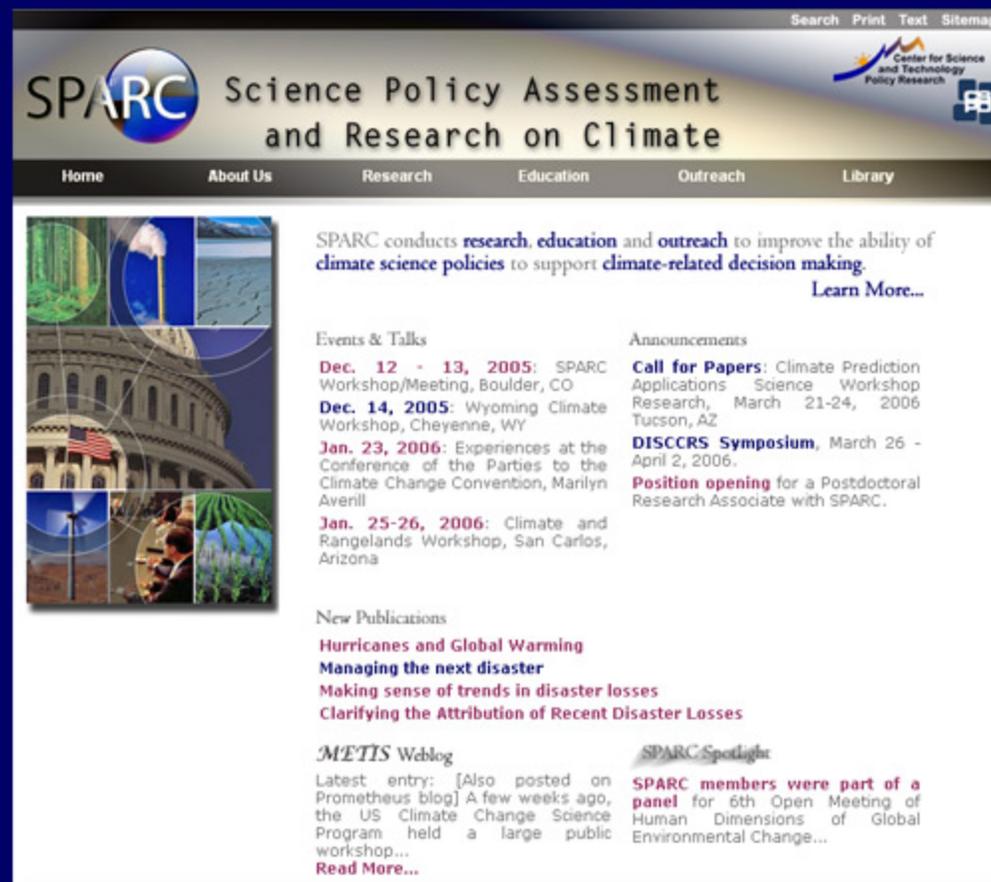
<http://www.sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/sparc>



SPARC Activities – *SPARC Website*

<http://sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/sparc>

- SPARC Highlights
- Metis Weblog
- SPARC in the news
- New Publications and SPARC library



The screenshot shows the SPARC website homepage. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for Search, Print, Text, and Sitemap. The main header features the SPARC logo and the text "Science Policy Assessment and Research on Climate". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, About Us, Research, Education, Outreach, and Library. The main content area is divided into several sections: a central image collage, a paragraph describing SPARC's mission, "Events & Talks" with dates and locations, "Announcements" including a call for papers and a position opening, "New Publications" with titles like "Hurricanes and Global Warming", and "METIS Weblog" with a latest entry. A "SPARC Spotlight" section mentions a panel at a meeting.

SPARC Website – *SPARC Highlights*

■ October 2005

- SPARC members were part of a panel "Climate Science Policy Assessment and Research" for the 6th Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community.

Abstracts or presentations are online at:

http://sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/sparc/outreach/bonn_meeting/index.html.



The screenshot shows the SPARC website interface. At the top, the SPARC logo is followed by the text "Science Policy Assessment and Research on Climate". Below this is a navigation bar with links for "Home", "About Us", "Research", "Education", "Outreach", and "Library". The main content area features a "Location" breadcrumb: "Center Home > SPARC Home > Outreach > Outreach". The title "SPARC Highlights" is prominently displayed, followed by "SPARC Spotlight October 2005". A photograph of a wind turbine in a desert landscape is shown on the left. The text describes the participation of SPARC members in a panel at the 6th Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community. It lists presenters: Elizabeth McNie, Roger Pielke, Lisa Dilling, Marilyn Averill, Eva Löwbränd, and Genevieve Maricle. A "Go to Outreach Home" link is provided. Below, it mentions "SPARC Spotlight March 2005" and "SPARC Spotlight February 2005". A final paragraph welcomes visitors and states that the SPARC project is funded by NSF in 2004 to study climate-related decisions under uncertainty (DMUU).

SPARC Website - *Metis* Weblog

- Metis is SPARC's weblog set up to represent the broad array of "practical skills and acquired intelligence" needed to respond to a changing environment.
 - Want to contribute something to Metis? See <http://sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/sparc/metis/contrib.html>

Metis

...from the Greek word for "practical knowledge"...

The SPARC Weblog: Discussion and announcements on climate science policy

Want to [contribute](#) an article or announcement?

November 30, 2005

The US Climate Change Science Program and Decision Support

Posted to [Author: Dilling, Lisa](#)

[Also posted on Prometheus blog]

A few weeks ago, the US Climate Change Science Program held a [large public workshop](#) with the stated goal of "serving as a forum to address the Program's progress and future plans regarding its three decision support approaches." In the Strategic plan, these three approaches are broken down into producing synthesis and assessment reports, developing adaptive management approaches and developing methods to support climate change policy making. This conference was organized around only the first two topics, not explicitly discussing the third.

I attended the workshop, along with about 800 other people. The breakdown of attendees was not given, but among presenters the statistics were clear—scientists and government participants dominated. The paucity of attendance of true "decisionmakers" who might be using the information generated by the program was readily apparent. If taking time to attend a three-day meeting is any indication of who the stakeholders of the CCSP are, the message is obvious: scientists and scientific agencies.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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SEARCH

Search this site:

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SPARC Website - *SPARC in the News*

- Database system used to compile announcements, news items, events, and new publications.
 - Center affiliate Dan Sarewitz of Nov. 18 Chronicle of Higher Education article "A More Social Science."
 - Science, Politics, and CIRES' Roger Pielke Covered in the Denver Post Column on January 17, 2005.
 - Roger Pielke, Jr. in Oct. 26 Christian Science Monitor article on disaster aid and politics.
 - Roger Pielke, Jr. in Oct. 4 Travel Weekly article on global warming issues.
 - Roger Pielke's Science Policy Opinion Piece Appeared in Washington Post on January 10, 2005.
 - Dan Sarewitz in the New York Times about world disasters, January 2, 2005.



SPARC Science Policy Assessment and Research on Climate

Home About Us Research Education Outreach Library

Location: [Center Home](#) > [SPARC Home](#) > [Outreach](#) > [SPARC News](#)

SPARC In the News

2005 Or Start Date - End Date

Include descriptions

[Go to Outreach Home](#)

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Science, Politics, and CIRES' Roger Pielke Covered in the Denver Post Column on January 17, 2005. [View](#)

Roger Pielke, Jr. in Oct. 26 Christian Science Monitor article on disaster aid and politics. [View](#)

Roger Pielke, Jr. in Oct. 4 Travel Weekly article on global warming issues. [View](#)

Roger Pielke's Science Policy Opinion Piece Appeared in Washington Post on January 10, 2005. [View](#)

Dan Sarewitz in the New York Times about world disasters, January 2, 2005. [View](#)

Climate Change a Focus of New NSF-Supported Research on How Decisions are Made in a World of Uncertainty, September 28, 2004. [View](#)

SPARC Website - *SPARC Library*

- New Publications from SPARC Team highlighted on SPARC's homepage
- SPARC publications are also categorized on the library page. Currently, they are available to view by year but are implementing a new system to view by date, author, and category
- Also being implemented is an option to view an abstract or full article for each new publication
- If you have a new publication that is related to the SPARC project, please send it to me!
- Internal Publication Database – Who uses it? Should it be expanded or removed?



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- Lahsen, Myanna, **Technology, Democracy, and U.S. Climate Politics: The Need for Demarcations**, Science, Technology, and Human Values, 30: 137-169, Winter 2005. [View More Info](#)
- Pielke, Jr., R.A., 2005. **A part of but apart from politics: Can Scientists advise policy-makers without compromising their objectivity?**, Book Review for Nature's Experts: Science, Politics, and the Environment by Stephen Bocking, Rutgers University Press: 2004, Nature, Volume 434, pp 139-140. [View More Info](#)
- Pielke, Jr., R.A., 2005. **Climate Change and Reinsurance, Part II**, Posted to Prometheus, <http://sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/prometheus>. [View More Info](#)
- Pielke, Jr., R. A. 2005. **Consensus about climate change?** Science, 308: 952-953. [View More Info](#)
- Pielke, Jr., R.A., 2005. **Making Sense of Trends in Disaster Losses**, Bridges-OST's Publication on Science & Technology Policy, Vol. 7. [View More Info](#)
- Pielke, Jr. R. A. 2005. **Science Academies as Political Advocates**, Bridges, Volume 6, July, Office of Science & Technology at the Embassy of Austria in Washington, D.C. [View More Info](#)

SPARC Activities – *SPARC Sponsored & Related Events*

■ SPARC Sponsored Events

- Decision Support and Carbon Cycle Science Workshop, June 2005
- RISA Science Policy Workshop, August 2005
- Climate Change and Disaster Losses Workshop, May 2006

■ SPARC Related Events

- CSTPR Noon-time Seminar Talks (Jan 23, 2006: Marilyn's experiences at the COP Meetings)
- Posting of other events relating to SPARC on website
(Nov. 14-16, 2005: U.S. Climate Change Science Program Workshop: Climate Science in Support of Decision Making, Arlington, VA)



Future Implementation

- New publication system that displays publications by date, author, or subject category. Also included will be an option to view new publications by abstract or full article
- Launching a Center bimonthly email briefing to disseminate information about center activities, which will include SPARC projects. Email briefing will be emailed out to a list of relevant contacts we have in the DC area
- [Center Breaking News page](#)
- [Media Resources page on climate science policy](#)

Discussion – *Where do we need to go with Outreach?*

- How to better improve or expand SPARC's outreach component?
- What type of activities are useful and effective?
 - Listserv?
 - Newsletter?