Climate Change
STORYTELLING RESOURCES

Compelling Stories
On a Global Scale

Climate change is already having a profound impact on the planet. Here’s just a small sampling of real stories and studies.

Front Lines of Innovation
The U.S. Marine Corps Expeditionary Energy Office is quietly moving the needle on energy innovation. The office’s goal is to create renewable-based battlefield energy systems that will reduce dependence on fossil fuels and resupplies during missions. Marines are now carrying flexible solar panels embedded in backpacks and mats to power gear, filter water and run communications equipment.

Security Threat
In its 2010 and 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review, the Pentagon included an analysis of climate change, recognizing it as a factor in global instability and U.S. national security. Climate change can contribute to food and water scarcity, causing mass migrations and amping up conflicts. The report states: “While climate change alone does not cause conflict, it may act as an accelerant of instability or conflict, placing a burden … [on] civilian institutions and militaries around the world.”

How Can We Help You?

For more than a decade HH&S has provided the entertainment industry with access to top health experts to increase the quality and quantity of health storylines in TV, film and new media—reaching millions of people worldwide. That effort includes the vital topic of climate change through its Climate Change Initiative. As part of our services we offer:

- Real stories about real people and places—unusual, compelling and dramatic.
- Tools for writers to accurately depict climate change: in-depth information from field scientists, at-risk communities learning to adapt, and innovators and young activists working to engineer a more sustainable future.
- Expert briefings on the growing health threat from infectious diseases and extreme weather brought on by climate change.
- Customized research trips to sites, special screenings of climate change-related movies that include conversations with the filmmakers, and experts who are available for briefings in writers rooms.

Contact Us
We’re a free resource for writers and producers, and our funders have included the Skoll Global Threats Fund, the Barr Foundation, the Grantham Foundation and ClimateWorks. For questions on scripts, contact us at hhs@usc.edu, (800) 283-0676, or visit www.usc.edu/hhs. Join us at facebook.com/hollywoodhealth and follow us on Twitter at @HollywdHealth.
Pension Funds Dump Carbon
Spurred by a report titled “Unburnable Carbon,” 70 institutional investors representing more than $3 trillion in assets have launched an effort to push the world’s top fossil fuel and power companies toward greener energy sources. The report indicates that fossil fuel-intensive companies risk having large portions of their assets stranded when the world eventually starts regulating carbon. Alternatively, it noted, if the companies extract and burn that carbon it could disrupt the world’s economy through the effects of climate change.

Against the Wind
Only 18 percent of weathercasters are aware of the scientific consensus on climate change, according to a recent survey. But South Carolina weatherman Jim Gandy understands that it’s real. When he launched a segment called “Climate Matters,” he was prepared for a backlash, but it never came. Viewers have even thanked him for showing how it affects their lives.

Infectious Diseases
World health experts say climate change—with an accompanying rise in floods and droughts—may fuel the spread of infectious diseases such as cholera, malaria and dengue fever to areas unprepared for them, including the United States.

Space Rock Riches
As Earth’s precious resources become more difficult and environmentally costly to access, entrepreneurs are launching companies to explore nearby asteroids for minerals and water. One such firm is Planetary Resources, with advisory help from filmmaker James Cameron and an investment from Google CEO Larry Page, among others.

Desert’s Masdar City: Not a Mirage
The United Arab Emirates is building Masdar City, the world’s most advanced eco-metropolis, in the desert. Reports say the emerging city—set to be completed by 2025—will be a zero-carbon, zero-waste ecology, and rely entirely on solar energy and other renewable fuel sources. According to its website, Masdar—which means “the source” in Arabic—is a commercially driven, renewable energy company owned by the Mubadala Development Company, in support of “global efforts to combat climate change” and maintain its leadership in global energy.