Summative Evaluation of



at the American Museum of Natural History

Analysis by: People, Places & Design Research

Summative Evaluation of the Exhibition: Climate Change at the American Museum of Natural History

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Executive Summary

This summative evaluation was commissioned by the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) to explore visitors' perceptions of the exhibition, "Climate Change: " – which was installed from October 2008 through August 2009. This report provides systematic information about visitors' perceptions of the intended messages and about the different types of exhibitry used to create the educational and experiential value of the exhibition. The information can be used to reflect on the exhibit development and design process, to consider whether to rent the traveling exhibition, and to inform future exhibition planning.

Goals for this evaluation

The analysis of visitor experiences is driven by the host institution's (AMNH) goals, based on decision-makers' sense of the challenges they faced, the strategies they used to present information and interpretive messages, and questions they have which could inform future exhibit development and design. In this project, there were five principal goals that were used to structure the evaluation:

- ◆ **Define the characteristics of the audience:** How does this audience compare to the audience for the previous special exhibition, *Water*? Is *Climate Change* primarily attracting people who are already interested and knowledgeable about environmental issues? (in colloquial terms in the conservation field: are we "preaching to the choir" the 'active' or 'committed' portion of the public), or is the exhibition also attracting more 'mainstream' visitors (less environmentally-oriented, not 'active')?
- Find the educational value of seeing this exhibition: What are the impacts of seeing this exhibition? Does *Climate Change* have something of value regardless of people's interest in the topic (or pre-existing environmental beliefs) or is it more effective for some people and not for others?
- Assess whether the "big messages" are being communicated, e.g., that:
 - 1. there is evidence that climate change is already happening
 - 2. climate change is a serious problem with many consequences
 - **3.** the best solution to the problem is global adoption of alternative energy sources, and
 - 4. individual actions can also help
- ♦ Explore visitors' feelings about climate change in general and as a result of experiencing the exhibition: Is the exhibition "a downer" or do people leave with a sense of optimism about the opportunities for solutions?
- ◆ Provide feedback about the use and effectiveness of specific exhibit components: Do people use and appreciate the audio-visual media, the interactives, etc., and do they understand the point of exhibits such as the polar bear or tree rings?

Methods used for this evaluation

Three research methods were developed to investigate visitors' experiences in the *Climate Change* exhibition:

- 1. **Entrance interviews** were conducted with a random sample of 'general public' adult visitors as they were entering the exhibition (in family groups or adult-only groups, 1 adult interviewed per visitor group, n = 137);
- 2. **Exit interviews** were conducted with a separate random sample of 'general public' adult visitors as they were leaving the exhibition (in family groups or adult-only groups, 1 adult interviewed per visitor group, n = 299); two different interview forms were used in order to increase the number of questions and issues that could be addressed;
- 3. **Observations** of use of three parts of the exhibition: the introductory area (n=56), the actions wall (n=54), and the behavior change computer stations (n=48).

In this collaboration, the research strategy and research instruments were developed by People, Places & Design Research (PPDR); the data collection for all methods was primarily conducted by AMNH staff and interns with training and assistance from PPDR; PPDR also monitored the quality of work as it progressed. Data entry, coding, analysis and interpretation of results was PPDR's responsibility.

The cooperation rate (proportion of visitors who agreed to be interviewed) was 93% on the Entrance interviews and 77% on the Exit interviews. The fact that cooperation was lower on the Exits introduces some possibility for bias, e.g., those who agreed to do Exit interviews may have been more committed to the museum (repeat visitors) and may have been more environmentally-oriented. However, detailed analysis by audience segments, as presented in this report, eliminates the possibility that such bias (if it existed) might have been masked by overall averages in the visitor data.

Visitor sample characteristics

The random sample of people contacted entering or leaving this exhibition may or may not be representative of AMNH's total audience, but it was sufficiently diverse for some in-depth analysis – containing substantial numbers of first-time visitors to the Museum as well as repeat visitors, New York City and tri-state residents as well as US domestic visitors and foreign visitors, people who belong to any kind of environmental organization (about half of the sample do, and half do not), a wide range of ages of adults, family visitors as well as adults visiting without children, and relatively equal proportions of men and women. In addition, the sample contained some people who were already knowledgeable about climate change but most had modest levels of awareness.

Overall, the sample composition is considered to be reasonable for an evaluation of this type, including the high degree of similarity between the characteristics of the Entrance Interview sample and the Exit Interview sample -- on 4 of 5 visitor characteristics, the samples were statistically similar (details in Section A).

Highlights of the Findings

The evaluation yielded a substantial amount of data, with findings on all goals.

- ◆ Climate Change attracted people who are interested in environmental issuesabout half of whom are 'active' and committed, and half are more mainstream in the sense of being interested and 'sympathetic but not active' (terms for audience segments that will be used in this report).
- ◆ Climate Change has demonstrated educational value to almost all visitors who saw this exhibition. 'Mainstream' visitors substantially increased their understanding of how many topics are related to climate change, and even 'active' visitors added to their already-higher understanding. Visitors' grasp of the intended interpretive messages was good in some cases (that climate change is already affecting the planet, that it's a serious problem, that there is tangible evidence for it); however, the message about alternative energy sources as the biggest solution seemed to compete with the more familiar message that visitors brought with them, namely that changes in individual behavior and lifestyles is the big factor.
- ◆ This exhibition did not connect with most visitors in an emotional way, and overall would be described as having a neutral affective impact. However, some visitors expressed feelings ranging from being tired from all the reading, to being mildly encouraged about alternative energy solutions, to being discouraged at how complex and extensive the problem is (including, for some people, the clear and dramatic evidence of increasing carbon emissions over centuries), to being glad that the exhibition exists and that people (and some children) were seeing it.
- There are obvious successes in the exhibit design layout and components, as well as intentions and experiments that did not work out so well. Among the more effective presentations were the first space (presenting a red neon line as a graph tracking carbon emissions as influenced by the Industrial Revolution), the 'actions wall' (7 domains of human activities; also euphemistically called the 'mind map'), the small animated globes, the two video theaters, the polar bear setting, and various examples of evidence for climate change measured scientifically (e.g., ice cores, tree rings). The theory of a large alternative energy area as the last space of the exhibition storyline did not turn out to be the 'punch line' for visitors, probably for a variety of reasons (e.g., people were tired of reading by that point and at least one-fifth of the audience walked through without stopping, there were no interactives to engage visitors, the 3-D models were difficult for most people to recognize). Other aspects of the exhibit design that visitors thought were less effective were the text panels (hard to read due to the graphic style, hard to understand, too much text to read), and the interactives (people wanted more hands-on experiences, and some were not so engaging).

The remainder of this Executive Summary provides further detail about these findings.

PROFILE OF THE AUDIENCE:

Visitors to *Climate Change* were similar, demographically, to the audience for *Water*. About half of the visitors described themselves as 'very interested and active' in environmental concerns, which is a very high proportion of a visitor audience. The other half were 'sympathetic but not active' so they are not the 'active' committed audience, more like a mainstream educated museum-going audience. However, both of these halves of the audience knew that with the title of 'Climate Change' this would be an exhibition about environmental issues, and they were likely to be receptive to the messages presented. There were very few visitors (5%) with low environmental interest (too few for reliable statistical analysis) and yet those are the people who need to be convinced. It is not clear how one might have drawn a broader range of people, but since the title itself probably inhibited or didn't appeal to people who were not already interested in global environmental issues, perhaps if there was not an extra fee for tickets to *Climate Change* (especially considering the current economic downturn) that would help to broaden the audience and spread the educational messages.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE:

Finding the educational value of visitor experiences in an exhibition can be pursued in a variety of ways. For example, people may be conscious of learning something new or getting a different perspective on a topic, or their responses to questions about specific topics may indicate changes in awareness or knowledge, or questions could investigate whether people were aware of the 'main messages' implicit or explicit in the exhibition's displays and interpretation, or they could be tested to see if they understood the point of specific exhibit components. All four of these approaches were used in this evaluation; results of the first two are discussed here; the third one ('main messages') is presented beginning on the next page, and the fourth one (understanding specific exhibit components) is presented later in this Summary.

<u>Self-defined learning</u>: Although about three-fourths of the exiting visitors felt that they were already familiar with at least half of the exhibit content before they arrived, most (82%) were able to cite at least one piece of information that was new for them. This self-defined educational value is different for people with different levels of experience. Even among 'active' visitors, the vast majority of them (85%) were able to cite some details that were new to them, including tree rings, carbon capture, alternative energy sources, and impacts on oceans.

Assessing knowledge of topics: This exhibition was designed primarily to reach a mainstream audience who may have varying levels of knowledge about climate change issues, so it is good that substantial educational impacts were evident among the 'sympathetic but not active' visitor segment. By contrasting audience awareness at the Entrance and Exit, it was found that 'sympathetic' visitors had increased awareness of how seven issues were related to climate change after seeing the

exhibition: severe storms, coral reefs, consumer choices, polar bears, ice cores, coal, and tree rings. 'Active' visitors were more likely to feel that most of the information in the exhibition was not new to them. However, there were a few content areas where the 'active' audience segment showed significant gains: knowledge about coal and awareness that climate change is already affecting the planet.

COMMUNICATING THE 'BIG MESSAGES:'

Another aspect of 'educational value' is whether the major interpretive messages intended by the exhibit team were in fact perceived by visitors. This evaluation focused on four such messages:

- 1. Big message: there is evidence that climate change is already happening. This message was assessed in two ways: focusing on whether visitors believed the evidence, and their awareness that climate change is already affecting the planet.
 - Asked about believing the evidence: About half of the visitors (56%) completely believed the arguments for climate change before they saw the exhibition; the proportion of visitors who completely believed after seeing the exhibition increased to 71% (not quite a statistically significant increase). The increase was somewhat more pronounced among 'mainstream' visitors ('sympathetic but not active': 45% vs. 62%), although they still came out of the exhibition less convinced than the 'active' committed visitors (62% vs. 81%). People cited four exhibits as doing the best job of showing the evidence: Ice Cores, Polar Bear, Tree Rings, and the CO₂ Timeline.
 - Already affecting the planet? Three-fourths of the visitors (72%) were already aware of some impacts of climate change before seeing the exhibition.

 Awareness increased slightly, but not significantly at the Exit (86%). The effect was most pronounced among 'active environmental' visitors (71% Entrance vs. 93% Exit), indicating that this message was not an obvious message for less-knowledgeable visitors, or that the examples of change were too insignificant for the mainstream audience to be concerned about. The most often mentioned examples of current climate change were: more storms, polar ice melt, warmer temperatures, and more erratic weather patterns.
- 2. Big message: climate change is a serious problem. This was one of the top two messages visitors expressed in open-ended descriptions of the exhibition (28% gave answers such as: worrying, urgent crisis, scary, I didn't realize climate change was dangerous). However, this idea was not top-of-mind when asked about the main idea of the exhibition (only 6% mentioned it). The sense from visitors' comments was that this exhibition was intended to be more informative, rather than attempting to invoke a sense of urgency. A few visitors (~5%) were disappointed that the exhibition was "not alarming enough." Visitors most often selected the New York City Flood Model and the Polar Bear as doing the best job of showing that climate change is a serious problem. Note that these two exhibits

- are highly visual and can connect with people emotionally (popular endangered animal and potential disaster in the city).
- 3. Big message: alternative energy sources are the primary solution. The results are mixed: although some people clearly got this message, it was not strongly perceived as a main message of the exhibition and in some cases it was overshadowed by the message that individual action is the answer. Both messages are represented in the exhibition and they are competing with each other in visitors' "top-of-mind" responses. When visitors were asked what is the most effective solution to climate change, about half said "alternative energy" (#1 answer), but almost as many people gave answers about consumer lifestyle choices or energy conservation.
- 4. Big message: individual action is also necessary. This message is more familiar to people (especially the 'active' environmental visitors), so it was easy for visitors to see it and talk about it in various interview responses. The concept that people need to change their habits was cited as one of the main ideas of the exhibition. This idea was also the #1 message that visitors hope *other people* get from seeing the exhibition. The Actions Wall was an important contributor to this message it was selected most often (more than the Alternative Energy Area) as doing the best job of showing solutions.

AFFECTIVE REACTIONS:

The exhibition didn't appear to have much of an effect on people's feelings about climate change. The good news for the exhibit team is that they were successful in designing an exhibition that was not a "downer;" the bad news is that the exhibition didn't connect with people emotionally, and some visitors complained about this. Many people came out of the exhibition with neutral feelings (or somewhat discouraged and somewhat optimistic at the same time), and there was no change in ratings compared with people's feelings when entering the exhibition. Among the affective reactions that were expressed, some people were tired out from this experience (some said from all the reading, some perhaps from the seriousness and extent of the issues); some people were pleased that *other people* were presumably getting educated by the exhibition, and some people were disturbed by their realization of the impacts or likely impacts of climate change (e.g., on polar bears, on poorer cultures around the world, and potentially in the future on NYC).

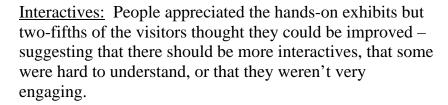
FEEDBACK ABOUT SELECTED EXHIBIT COMPONENTS

The fifth goal of the evaluation was to investigate and analyze visitors' experience with some of the specific exhibit components, in order to provide feedback for the exhibit team on various innovations and experiments they had created. Four "types" of exhibit components are reviewed first, then several specific spaces or features in the exhibition are reviewed, in the order of their sequence from entrance to exit.

"Types" of exhibit components

<u>Animated Globes:</u> These installations were very popular – they were the #1 answer for "most interesting display," and only 8% of visitors thought they could be improved.

<u>Videos:</u> People also liked the two video 'theaters' – the #2 answer for "most interesting display," and only a few visitors offered any suggestions about how the films could be improved.



<u>Text Panels:</u> There was little enthusiasm for the 'text heavy' character of the experience, and about two-fifths of visitors thought this aspect could be improved, primarily by having fewer text panels, less text on each panel, and some said the graphic style made it hard to read.









"Spaces" and clusters of exhibits

<u>First Area /Introduction</u> (timeline through the Industrial Revolution, four vitrines, two big message panels):



This area did engage people as they entered the exhibition; most visitors spent time in this area (average = 3 minutes) and stopped to look at multiple displays (average = 5). Most visitors walked along the timeline, stopping intermittently to look at some dates or at the vitrines in the center. Only 13% of visitor groups

breezed through without stopping anywhere. The one piece that did not attract as much use as it should was the main message panel – only 20% looked at it. This is clearly a location problem because 52% looked at the other text panel (greenhouse gas), which is in the sight line as people walk away from the end of the timeline.

◆ Feature: Neon CO₂ Timeline: This part of the intro area was very effective – it came up often in people's openended responses, for example: "most interesting or surprising" (#1), a topic you "found out about" (#2), "most discouraging thing" (#3), "showing that climate change is a serious problem" (#3), "showing evidence for climate change" (#3). When exiting the exhibition, the vast majority of visitors looked at a photo of this element and understood what it represented.



<u>Conservation Behaviors Area</u> (Actions Wall, Behavior Change computer stations, and Built Environment panel):



Although components are engaging, the layout of this area is problematic because most visitors start at the Actions Wall, and many proceed to the end of that wall and then leave, missing the other two exhibits. The 'behavior change' computer kiosks

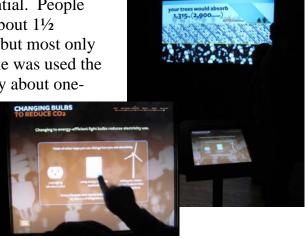
would probably have attracted more use if turned either 180 degrees to pick up on the visitor path at the end of the Actions Wall, or turned 90 degrees to the left so the large screen could have been hung on the wall opposite from the Actions Wall.

◆ Feature: Actions Wall: This is a very engaging component – most visitors stopped here, spent a reasonable amount of time (average = 2 minutes), looked at multiple sections (average = 5 stops), and half (54%) looked at the entire wall. About half of the visitor groups pushed one or more of the buttons. Additionally, there was a high level of social interaction among visitors at the wall (79% talked about it). At the end of the exhibition, when asked which exhibits did the best job of talking about solutions to climate change, visitors most often pointed to the photo of this exhibit (44%).



◆ *Feature*: Behavior Change Computers: This exhibit component did not seem to fulfill its potential. People who stopped to use a touch screen spent about 1½ minutes, on average, which is reasonable, but most only used one of the stations – the light bulb one was used the most and the tree one was least used. Only about one-

third of the computer users looked up at the big screen across from the computer stations, so most visitors are not getting that message (anecdotal comments also suggest that the big screen was so visually busy that people had a hard time understanding it).



Polar Bear: This was a popular display – nearly everyone saw it. It connected with people on an emotional level, even if not everyone understood the interpretive message exactly (60% got the connection between polar bears and loss of habitat due to climate change; 20% thought the point was to show that our trash is polluting their habitat). People often mentioned this display in their open-ended comments – it was the #3 answer for "most interesting display," #1 answer for "most discouraging thing," #2



answer for "the best job of *convincing* people that climate change is a serious problem" and #2 answer for "did the best job of showing *evidence* for climate change."

Alternative Energy Area:



The results for this area are mixed – most of the visitors who stopped here had a reasonable idea of what it was about, but 20% of the visitors apparently walked through without looking at anything (being the last area, some people mentioned being tired of reading, overwhelmed by all the information in the rest of the exhibition). Also, there were a lot of displays and information but nothing interactive or engaging to attract visitors to stop

(except for the comment board, but that has a different message). For people who did stop to read the displays, there was some interesting and surprising information here about how other countries are using alternative energy sources more than we are – the #1 answer for "most surprising information," #2 answer for "something that was new for you," #1 answer for "which of these 12 topics did you find out something about."

A. Who is the audience for this exhibition?

This full research report starts with a demographic and psychographic profile of the *Climate Change* audience, which serves as an important source of context for interpreting the results. One question of interest: is this exhibition "preaching to the choir" (in the sense of an audience who are already aware of and believing in the seriousness of climate change)? Some highlights of the results are:

- The audience for this exhibition was similar to the audience for *Water*, demographically and environmentally. The visitors were highly educated (82% have college degrees), there were equal proportions of NYC residents, regional residents, people from other parts of the U.S. and people from other countries, and three-quarters were adults visiting without children.
- About half of this audience can be considered the committed audience, and half are more mainstream. The data show that half belong to environmental organizations, half consider themselves 'very interested and active' in environmental issues, and 56% completely believed the arguments for climate change before seeing the exhibition.
- A segmentation of the audience by 'active' vs. 'sympathetic' people (in terms of their selfdescribed environmental orientation) is introduced as a helpful way to look at the results presented in subsequent sections of the report – was the exhibition equally successful for both types of visitors? (There were too few 'disbelievers' for their reactions to be analyzed.)

A.1. Demographic characteristics

OVERVIEW: The demographic characteristics of visitors to *Climate Change* are fairly similar to those of people who came to the previous special exhibition, *Water*. In general this means that there were more repeat visitors to the Museum than there were first-time visitors, many more adult visitor groups than family groups, and slightly more women than men were encountered. Visitors from local to international were among the audience for this exhibition, and a full range of adult ages was represented (although there were more younger adults than older adults). One of the distinctive characteristics was how highly educated this audience was: 55% had some type of graduate school education, and total of 82% had a college degree.

The Entrance and Exit samples were reasonably similar in most respects (residence, group composition, gender, and age). However, the proportion of repeat visitors in the Exit sample (70%) was significantly higher than in the Entrance sample (57%), possibly reflecting a tendency for committed visitors to be more cooperative with Exit interviews.

	Climate Cha	ange Exhibit	Water Exhibit		
	Entrance	Exit	Entrance	Exit	
	(n=138)	(n=299)	(n=152)	(n=316)	
Familiarity with AMNH:	*	*			
first-time visitor	43%	30%	40%	40%	
repeat visitor	57%	70%	60%	60%	
Residence:					
NY city	25%	34%	33%	28%	
other NY, CT, NJ	28%	23%	18%	15%	
other US	23%	23%	29%	33%	
other countries	24%	20%	20%	24%	
Group composition:					
adults-only	74%	75%	74%	68%	
families with children	26%	25%	26%	32%	
Gender:					
male	42%	47%	37%	46%	
female	58%	53%	63%	54%	

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^{**} Asterisks indicate statistically significant differences (p<.05) between columns of figures. On this page there is a difference between the Entrance and Exit samples in the proportion of first-time vs. repeat visitors.

¹ In analyzing audiences to museums, the proportion of repeat visitors is usually higher for special temporary exhibits, and is usually higher in winter (when this evaluation was conducted).

Demographic characteristics (continued)

	Climate Cha	nge Exhibit	Water I	Exhibit
	Entrance	<u>Exit</u>	Entrance	<u>Exit</u>
	(n=138)	(n=299)	(n=152)	(n=316)
Age:				
20's	33%	30%	18%	20%
30's	26%	20%	25%	20%
40's	19%	20%	21%	18%
50's	13%	14%	22%	19%
60+	9%	16%	14%	23%
Education level:				
high school	n/a	4%	n/a	n/a
some college		14%		
college graduate		27%		
graduate school		55%		
Day type: ²				
weekday	54%	54%		
weekend	33%	33%		
school vacation	13%	13%		

² The entrance sample originally had significantly more data from school vacation weeks (36%), so it was statistically weighted to be the same as the combined Exit interview sample in terms of the proportion of weekday, weekend, and vacation days.

A.2. Environmental attitudes and knowledge

OVERVIEW: One of the questions for this study is whether the *Climate Change* exhibition is drawing a broad audience or a narrower audience of people with a special interest in environmental issues (is this exhibition "preaching to the choir?"). The data indicate that this audience is similar to the audience for the *Water* exhibition in terms of environmental orientation – about half identify themselves as environmentally active, about half belong to or donate to environmental organizations, and about half came into the exhibition already convinced that climate change is real. So, it can be said that about half of the audience represents "the choir" and the other half is sympathetic to environmental concerns, but not yet active. Very few visitors (5%) expressed low interest or concern for environmental issues.

One additional interesting finding is that the pattern of results about attitude toward the environment is different than what was seen in the evaluation of *Water*: with the previous exhibition, there was a slight (non-significant) decrease in the proportion of people who considered themselves 'active' in the Exit sample, but with *Climate Change*, there is an increase (almost statistically significant) in 'actives' in the Exit sample. A possible explanation is that people saw conservation actions represented in the *Climate Change* exhibition (e.g., Actions Wall) that they are already doing, so they walked out feeling more environmentally active (see data in the next section A.3. for additional information).

	Climate Change Exhibit		Water I	Exhibit	
	Entrance	<u>Exit</u>	Entrance Ex		
	(n=138)	(n=299)	(n=152)	(n=316)	
Attitude toward environment:	+	-+			
very interested & active	47%	56%	43%	34%	
sympathetic but not active	48%	40%	48%	61%	
somewhat or not interested	5%	4%	9%	5%	
Belong to environmental organizations:	<u>:</u>				
yes	n/a	54%	n/a	51%	
no		46%	n/a	49%	
Knowledge of climate change before seeing exhibition:					
I already knew a lot	21%				
I knew some	68%				
I didn't know much	11%				
Believe arguments for climate change?					
completely believe	56%				
moderately believe	33%				
some doubts	11%				

⁺⁺ Plus signs are used in this report to indicate patterns of differences which are not quite statistically significant (milder differences, which may have occurred by chance), but which suggest a trend and may have some intuitive value in some circumstances.

A.3. Profile of environmentally-oriented and sympathetic visitors

OVERVIEW: 'Active' visitors are found in all demographic categories because demographic characteristics do not necessarily predict environmental attitudes. Similar proportions of visitors entering the exhibition declared themselves 'active' regardless of familiarity with AMNH, residence, group composition, or gender. However, a few distinctive patterns did emerge: young adults in their 20's and older adults (age 60+) were less likely to describe themselves as 'active' upon entering the exhibition, while adults in their 50's were more likely to be 'active;' but this pattern changed and differences were not significant among exiting visitors. Other differences seen in the Exit sample were: people from other countries were more likely to identify as 'active,' and families with children were less likely to be 'active.'

READ THIS TABLE AS PERCENTS ACROSS THE ROWS

Demographics:		Entrance		Exit	
	<u>Active</u>	Sympathetic	<u>Active</u>	Sympathetic	
	(n=64)	(n=72)	(n=166)	(n=129)	
Familiarity with AMNH:					
first-time visitor	43%	57%	53%	47%	
repeat visitor	50%	50%	58%	42%	
Residence:			*	**	
NY city	45%	55%	51%	49%	
other NY, CT, NJ	42%	58%	49%	51%	
other US	60%	40%	57%	43%	
other countries	42%	58%	72%	28%	
Group composition:			*	**	
adults-only	47%	53%	64%	36%	
families with children	49%	51%	36%	64%	
Gender:					
male	47%	53%	54%	46%	
female	47%	53%	58%	42%	
Age:		**			
20's	34%	66%	61%	39%	
30's	57%	43%	46%	54%	
40's	49%	51%	58%	42%	
50's	75%	25%	54%	46%	
60+	31%	69%	62%	38%	
Education level:					
high school / some college	n/a	n/a	46%	54%	
college graduate			56%	44%	
graduate school			60%	40%	

Profile of environmentally oriented visitors (continued)

OVERVIEW: 'Active' visitors are different from 'sympathetic' visitors on other environmentally-oriented measures. 'Active' visitors are more likely than 'sympathetic' to belong to nature organizations (65% of 'actives' belong). They also rated themselves as more knowledgeable about climate change as they entered the exhibition (but two-thirds of 'actives' said they knew some, not a lot). The majority of 'active' visitors (70%) completely believed in climate change when they entered the exhibition, compared with only 45% of 'sympathetic' visitors.

Psychographics:	Entrance		Exit	
	<u>Active</u>	Sympathetic	<u>Active</u>	Sympathetic
	(n=64)	(n=72)	(n=166)	(n=129)
Belong to organizations:				**
yes	n/a	n/a	65%	40%
no			35%	60%
Knowledge of climate change				
before seeing exhibition:		**		
I already know a lot	30%	15%		
I know some	66%	70%		
I don't know much	4%	16%		
Believe arguments for climate change?		**		
completely believe	70%	45%		
moderately believe	27%	37%		
some doubts	3%	18%		

B. Overall perceptions of the exhibition

This section summarizes people's perceptions of *Climate Change*, including descriptions in visitors' own words, ratings of how worthwhile it was, what was most interesting to visitors, and the overall messages that people got. Some highlights of these results are:

- Top-of-mind descriptions of the exhibition included words such as: informative, scary, good, interesting, enlightening, and too much information.
- Ratings of the exhibition on a scale of 1 to 10 were moderately favorable: 45% gave a high rating, 43% gave moderate ratings, and only 11% gave low ratings. The level of satisfaction was the same across virtually all audience segments, although 'active' visitors rated the exhibition more highly than 'sympathetic' visitors.
- Displays that people mentioned as most interesting included the animated globes, the timeline, films, and the polar bear. The information that people found most interesting or surprising was: alternative energy, ocean effects, and how we can save energy.
- The main ideas of the exhibition were expressed by visitors as: raising awareness about climate change, getting people to change, the causes of climate change, that it's happening, and that there are solutions.

B.1. Top-of-mind descriptors of the exhibition

OVERVIEW: When asked to describe the exhibition, the top two categories of answers were "informative" and "scary." Some other frequent answers were general positives ("good" or "I like it"), "interesting," and some negative comments such as "too much information," "not enough depth" or "not alarming enough." Only 2% indicated disbelief.

What 2 words or phrases come to mind to describe this Climate Change exhibit? [FORM B; n=101]

28%	educational, informative
28%	urgent problem, scary, worrying
18%	general positive (excellent, clear, well-done, good graphics)
12%	interesting
11%	negative (not alarming enough, not enough info, too much text, confusing)
9%	enlightening, thought-provoking
8%	believable, helpful, needed
7%	solutions: save energy, alternative energy, reduce CO ₂
5%	complete, balanced presentation
4%	hopeful, we can make a difference
3%	human activity is to blame
3%	interactive
2%	propaganda, inaccurate (disbelievers)
12%	other general about the content (global warming, CO ₂ , energy)

Sample of answers

Horrible, climate change is dangerous We need to change; new solutions

 CO_2 is not main source of temperature increase, there is complicated science going on

Concrete; interactive Clean coal; wind turbines Pollution; global warming Excellent; informative Informative; interactive (kid)

Ecosystem; recycling

Urgent; crisis

I liked it; wished I had more time to read everything Awesome; very informative, thought provoking

Scary; information
I like it; awesome
Incomplete; troubling

Scary; I didn't realize as much was going on

Human's fault

Immediate, continuous Emissions, energy Worrying, researching

Phrases to describe the exhibit (continued)

Informative; balanced

Sensational

Responsibility; timeliness Informative; thorough

Informative; impressive, but could have more depth

Downer; lot to learn Carbon dioxide; energy

Global warming; threatening our earth; conserve our energy

Realistic; scary Good; educational Interesting, I liked it

Thought provoking; enlightening

Too much information; unimpressed with attendance of exhibit

Scary; it's getting hotter Immediate; important Light bulbs; we can do it

B.2. Was it worthwhile?

OVERVIEW: Ratings of the exhibition (how worthwhile was it?) show moderately high satisfaction overall – 45% gave high ratings and 43% gave medium ratings. This level of satisfaction was the same across virtually all audience segments (first-time and repeat visitors, families and adults, all age and education levels, and those who were knowledgeable about climate change as well as those who were not). 'Active' visitors gave significantly higher ratings than 'sympathetic' visitors. Women gave higher ratings than men (it is not unusual in museum studies for women to express more positive opinions, especially about nature or environmental exhibits).

On a scale of 1 to 10, how worthwhile was this exhibit? ³ [EXIT A]

	<u>Overall</u>	<u>Active</u>	Sympathetic
	(n=196)	(n=111)	(n=85)
very worthwhile (9-10)	45%	57%	** 31%
worthwhile (7-8)	43%	33%	56%
not so worthwhile (1-6)	11%	10%	13%

	<u>Men</u>	Women
very worthwhile (9-10)	39%	** 54%
worthwhile (7-8)	44%	41%
not so worthwhile (1-6)	17%	4%

³ Interpreting visitors' ratings on 10-point scales is based on years of experience with museum visitors, using follow-up questions to ask what their ratings mean, or why they gave a particular number. Consistently over time and a variety of settings, we have found that '9' or '10' means an excellent experience which is completely positive, a '7' or '8' means a moderately positive rating which can be accompanied by some misgivings or not-so-enthusiastic support, and a '6' or lower number indicates a disappointing experience or one with substantial misgivings. The highest ratings we've seen (national award winning exhibitions, and very popular among visitors) have been in the range of 75%-80% nines and tens.

B.3. What was most interesting?

OVERVIEW: People mentioned a lot of ideas, as well as specific display elements that they thought were interesting or surprising. The most interesting <u>content</u> areas included: alternative energy, ocean phenomena and other consequences of climate change, and suggestions of what people can do to conserve. Some of the most interesting <u>displays</u> mentioned were: the animated globes, the red CO₂ timeline, the films, and the polar bear on the garbage pile.

What was most interesting or surprising for you?

[FORMS A&B; n=304]

Content:

20%	information about alternative energy sources
15%	effects on the ocean (acidification, ocean stores CO ₂ , coral reefs dying)
15%	effects on wildlife, weather, etc.
14%	suggestions, how we can save energy (actions wall, computers)
11%	information about coal
10%	measuring climate change: tree rings, ice cores
10%	solutions & adaptations, green building, what people are doing already
7%	ice melt, permafrost
6%	carbon capture
2%	trees and CO ₂
2%	amount of energy we use
2%	information, facts, statistics, explanations
13%	animated globes
13%	timeline, red line, CO ₂ rising
9%	films and videos
9%	polar bear on garbage
6%	flooded NYC model
4%	interactives (solar reflection of ice caps, tilt of earth)
3%	temperature change graph
2%	graphics, displays, visuals
2%	rain falling
10%	other answers (comment board, antique instruments, concrete, methane, etc)
3%	don't know, nothing, knew it already
	15% 15% 14% 11% 10% 10% 7% 6% 2% 2% 2% 13% 13% 9% 6% 4% 3% 2% 2% 10%

Sample of answers: what was most interesting?

The ocean is acidifying leading to increase in plankton size; coral bleaching

America's selfish use of energy; practical measures to save energy

Information about coal; ice cores

Initial video; globes - animated, attention getter

All the energy generating alternatives; globes where you press buttons to change patterns

Carbon capture; how clean natural gas was

Ice cores; first carbon chart at entry

Luminous exhibit of the globe; motion of clouds and whole earth concept

Malaria; tree rings

Lights at night, a waste of energy, polar

Coral, polar bear

The globes, the interactive (ice sheets moving), the solutions section

The first movie, polar bears, the contrast between before and now

Ocean part (changes in acidity); how winds move

Transfer of disease from one to another; deforestation

Globe showed different parts of the world, polar bear

Severe weather stuff; different ways to help or change own way of living to help

The peepers being two weeks early; G-cans in Tokyo

How people have taken steps to stop global warming; the timeline red line

Surprised they are advocating nuclear power; history of coal

That we can curb the effects of climate on earth; alternative energy

The greenhouse effect; coal

Ocean currents on animated globe, little current warms east coast

More data on ocean ph, there wasn't enough

Carbon capture; level of CO_2 in the atmosphere

The amount of CO_2 released; polar bears, changing habitats of animals

Thing about coal, US has biggest reserves; floating gardens

How change affects the coral reefs

*History of coal; CO*² *challenge*

India's floating gardens; methane from animals has a major effect on climate change

How much is a metric ton of coal; so much is backed up by evidence

Polar bear; arctic fox

 CO_2 revelation; how coal was the major pollutant

Animation of cloud patterns; tree rings

Effect on arctic fox; permafrost

Impacts on a variety of climates; oceans and people, urban situations

The growth in carbon emission from year 2000; the amount of saving that can be done

Stuff that we already knew; visualization increases awareness

*CO*₂ *storage*

When you cut the tree CO_2 is released; wind power

Coral life; exhibit about pollution

Flooding issue, how different countries handle it; Arctic ice research, effect on bears

3-D globe maps

Wall of commitment we can make, w/ associated facts; changing water levels

Most interesting (continued)

The amounts of CO₂ emitted; things you can do to prevent it

Calculating how many trees one has to plant to offset the car

Storing energy by moving water upwards; tree rings

Section on coal with metric ton chunk of coal, minimal electricity produced; solar could give 100% of electricity needs

Evidence, statistics, numbers; drills in the ice, ice cores

Ice core; coral reef

Coal emits more CO₂ than oil; higher temps and storms

Diseased coral; red CO₂ line

You can do more with answers on big screen; change use of autos and electricity, alternative energies

B.4. Perceptions of the main idea

OVERVIEW: When visitors were asked about the main idea of this exhibition, the top category of answer was to educate and raise people's awareness of climate change. Other common answers were: to encourage people to conserve, how humans are affecting climate, the effects will change the world, and there are solutions to the problems. These categories of answers align well with the intended themes of this exhibition.

What's the main idea of this Climate Change exhibit? [FORM A; n=203]

36%	raise awareness, educate about climate change
25%	what people can do to help, encourage people to change habits
20%	causes of climate change: human activity, CO ₂ emissions
17%	effects of climate change, earth is already changing
13%	there are solutions (didn't mention specifics)
8%	present evidence for climate change, convince people
6%	importance of issue, a serious problem, urgency
5%	alternative energy sources
3%	conservation, protecting the earth (general answers)
2%	no easy solutions, complicated issue
3%	other answers
1%	don't know, no answer

Sample of answers

The effect will change the world as a whole Awareness, education, encouragement Human driven climate change To get people to rethink how they use their energy Climate is changing and we can do something about it CO_2

Alternative fuels and thinking about the need for nations to prepare for transitions Human induced, people will have to change their habits

The change in climate since 1950; impact our society has on the environment To impel people to make changes

Shows how we humans are doing most of the damage, many of us are unwilling to change The world is raising its temperature and carbon emissions

Discussing evidence of climate change, the different components and how we can tack/solve

To show how humans have had an impact and some actions that can be taken to reverse To create consciousness about our planet; what little things we have to better The use of unclean energy, population has increased, using more energy, CO_2 into air Sustainability, informing people about climate change and how to save the environment To convince people we have problems and how we can fix it and that it is urgent To educate to help form an opinion

The principles of what's causing climate change and solutions to the problems

What's the main idea? (continued)

Showing how energy we use over time affects our planet, ways to mitigate climate change How humans are affecting climate change

To reduce waste

To inform and inspire

Change, conservation, what we can do

Saving electricity; to encourage people to conserve

Awareness to realize the factors going into it and data that say its changing

To help the world

To make people aware of challenges in the future

To raise awareness

To help people understand gravity of climate change and how our actions individually make a difference

Awareness

To provide scientific info and proof for climate change and the causes

To educate students about global warming; how they can make a difference

Pollution

Understanding technology behind the cause, invention of the steam engine

The educational value of exhibit was very good, reaches goal of awareness

The extent of how the climate has changed

It's here, no point debating ,evidence everywhere, awareness of what can/should be done

How to lower carbon

Education

To educate on the realities of how we are living

Show how carbon emissions are changing the climate

Our climate is changing and there are alternative methods

No one idea

Save the earth

Presenting info about it

To educate us that we better do something; why and what we might do

Climate is changing

That it's happening and we need to do something about it

B.5. Perceptions of interpretive emphasis

OVERVIEW: Before visitors saw the exhibition, they were asked which of four themes would be more interesting. Two of the four choices were clearly more interesting: 'effects of climate change on animals and humans' and 'solutions to climate change problems.' They expressed lower interest in seeing 'the evidence' or 'how climate change is being measured.' 'Active' and 'sympathetic' people had similar interests.

After seeing the exhibition, a different pattern emerged: visitors selected all four topics about equally when asked to choose the ones they *found out more about* in this exhibit. This might suggest that the interpretive techniques used for the less interesting topics (evidence, measuring) were effective at getting visitors' attention. Again, 'active' and 'sympathetic' visitors responded similarly to all four topics indicating that this exhibition was not just "preaching to the choir" (the 'actives' did get something from the experience), it was also reaching the "mainstream audience" ('sympathetics' had similar perceptions of what they found out, compared to 'actives').

ENTRANCE: Which of these would be more interesting to you? [pick a 1st and 2nd choice]

	<u>Active</u> (n=63)	Sympathetic (n=72)
The effects of climate change on animals and humans	76%	76%
The most likely solutions to climate change problems	63%	74%
Evidence that climate change is real	35%	31%
Several ways that climate change is being measured	23%	18%

EXIT: Which of these did you find out more about in this exhibit? [pick a 1st and 2nd choice]

	<u>Active</u> (n=112)	Sympathetic (n=85)
The effects of climate change on animals and humans	55%	49%
The most likely solutions to climate change problems	49%	52%
Evidence that climate change is real	49%	40%
Several ways that climate change is being measured	47%	56%

B.6. Take away messages, realizations

OVERVIEW: The primary message that visitors expressed when asked about their *personal realizations* was that people need to do more to change. This message was vocalized in several variations, such as: "there is more that I can do," "much work needs to be done," "we have to be better stewards," and "we all have to get involved." It's discouraging that only 1% cited the realization that alternative energies are a solution because the primary intended message was that individual efforts are not enough and that a global switch to alternative energy is the real solution. It's possible that museum visitors are now so familiar with the message of 'things you need to do to help with conservation' that this is what comes to mind first.

Seeing this climate change exhibit made me realize that [FORM A; n=203]

17%	there is more I can do
15%	more needs to be done, we have a lot of work to do
13%	we need to save the earth, need to do something
10%	our efforts can make a difference, communal efforts
8%	people need to be educated, people don't understand
7%	bigger problem than I thought
7%	there are solutions (unspecified), it's not hopeless
6%	governments must act, work together, global effort
6%	global warming is real, evidence
5%	hopeless, people don't care enough, won't change
3%	some people and governments are concerned & acting
3%	urgency, need to act NOW
2%	it's complicated, we don't know everything
2%	disbeliever
1%	alternative energies are a solution
4%	other
	E

Sample of answers

I need to work a littler harder to do my part

Much work needs to be done, and can be done with discipline

Doing all I can

More needs to be done to reverse the problem

Didn't realize, but confirmed that its up to us to change the decisions of government

We're starting to be more optimistic on solutions, it's a starting point

Government should take action in developed and under-developed countries

I'm concerned about climate change

We are contributing to what may be a natural event

We should really do something! We should get on the train and walk more

Have to make changes in my life to make better world for my family; only one planet There are more solutions than I thought

We have a lot of work to do to convince people that it's real and to spend resources

Seeing the exhibit made me realize ... (continued)

We need to do something fast to stop this and change

We need to be more aware of the climate

Everyone can contribute towards reducing climate change, one said to plant a few trees

We as a society have to make major changes in the way we live and work

We need to do something about it and we are very wasteful

Global warming exists

There is more that I can do

There are a lot of things we have to do and our government has to do to combat this

Enormous ways in which climate change affects the world that I haven't taken note of

I have to keep changing for the better, control my own wastes

People should care more

Museum accepts premise that climate change is a result of CO_2 emissions, didn't explore other possibilities

That we are on a destructive path

There are concrete things that I can do and that I'm going to look into climate change more

More people need to be informed about it

To be more proactive about personal effects on climate change

The importance of addressing this issue

Even though I thought I was doing a great job conserving, I can do better, community

This problem is real and we really need time to address the solutions

I'm part of the problem and the solution

We all have to get involved

We have many types of evidence for climate change

We threaten our own existence; have some control over it if we decide to not damage it

Changes that I can personally make will be beneficial

How serious it is and that we can reverse the situation

I need to bring my students here

There aren't enough people here

We have to be better stewards of using energy available to us

We have a lot of work to do

We better hurry up

We have to change and do something

There are solutions, we can remain optimistic

We've got a lot of work to do

People are starting to take climate change seriously

We have a lot more work to do

It's a solvable problem

We have to change our energy use now

We're in a lot of trouble

Take away messages (continued)

OVERVIEW: The main idea that visitors *hope other people get* from this exhibition is (again) that lifestyle changes are needed. The next most frequent answers are about the seriousness of climate change (that is already happening) and a sense of urgency.

The idea that I hope people get from this exhibit is . . .

[FORM B; n=101]

33%	we all need to help by making individual lifestyle changes
20%	climate change is real, already happening, serious problem
12%	urgent – we need to act NOW
8%	hopeful – we can avoid serious damage
5%	save the planet (general comments)
5%	action at the community level is needed
4%	global/large scale action is needed
4%	humans are responsible for climate change
3%	alternative energy solutions
7%	other

Sample of answers

How they can change their lives to help with changing overall

We need to take climate change seriously

Important to reduce CO_2 made by humans to avoid having abrupt change of climate Change as soon as they get out of the museum for real

We need to make changes in our daily habits and there are many things we can do

To conserve energy

That we have to do something now

Everybody needs to help, get our towns to do it

To use our resources wisely

Climate change is an immediate issue, everybody must take responsibility

That everyone needs to make a change, group effort

Conserve energy

We need to take climate change seriously and work on solutions

Understanding global situation

How the climate changes; where we can get more energy other than burning coal

Get enlightened and take action

To consume what they need and less of what they want

That they can influence climate change by choices they make

We can't go on the way we are

That we have to make change

More knowledge about climate change, that climate change is real

That people can work together to solve problems

Change needs to be made to help the earth and us

That climate change is happening and alternative sources of energy

That we all must do our part to combat climate change

The idea I hope people get from this exhibit . . . (continued)

Feeling guilty

That climate change is real

People will go back and do something in their community

We can do it!

We need to do more about garbage and recycling, composting needs to catch on in the US

There are alternatives that we have to start using

To learn and be proactive

We gotta start working on this issue

There are actions that we can and should take

Their actions have an impact

Start making that change

That climate change is brought on by humans and we have to do something about it

Consensus on how we are destroying the earth and take action

C. Educational impact of seeing the exhibition

Impacts were assessed by comparing visitors' awareness of climate change issues before vs. after seeing the exhibition. The key findings are:

- Visitors leaving the exhibition gave higher ratings of 'believability of the evidence for climate change' compared to entering visitors (71% vs. 56% 'very believable').
- Sympathetic visitors entered the exhibition with lower awareness of eight climate change issues as compared with active visitors. After seeing the exhibition, the sympathetic visitors showed increased knowledge of seven issues, bringing them up to the level of actives. Actives only indicated an increase in knowledge about one issue: coal.
- Most visitors coming into this exhibition (72%) were already aware that climate change is affecting the planet now. This awareness increased further among actives after seeing the exhibition (93%), but not so much among sympathetic/main-stream.
- Visitors came out of the exhibition with a more specific idea about the cause of climate change (CO₂ emissions), as compared with their thoughts before seeing the exhibition (humans causes in general).
- About half of the visitors got the message that alternative energy is the most effective solution.
 Many of the other suggestions focused on consumer habits and transportation changes. The message of lifestyle habits and behavior seems to have competed with the alternative energy message.
- The exhibition did not appear to have a significant impact on visitors' overall feelings of optimism (or pessimism) about climate change. When asked to cite something hopeful, the alternative energy section was mentioned most frequently.
- Although most visitors felt that much of the information was not new to them, most were able to cite tidbits that were new (e.g., tree rings, alternative energy information, ocean impacts).

C.1. Believability of the evidence

OVERVIEW: There was a small increase (not quite statistically significant; p<.06)⁴ in the proportion of visitors who gave high ratings for the believability of the evidence for climate change when comparing the Entrance and Exit samples. Additional analysis shows that the change was more noticeable among 'sympathetic' visitors (also not quite statistically significant).

On a scale of 1 to 10, how believable do you think the arguments/evidence is for significant climate change?

	Entrance (n=137)	<u>Exit</u> (n=98)	
completely believable (9-10)	56% ++	71%	
moderately believable (7-8)	33%	21%	
not so believable (1-6)	11%	7%	

Analyzed by 'active' vs. 'sympathetic'

	Active		Sympathetic		
	Entrance	<u>Exit</u>	Entrance	Exit	
	(n=63)	(n=52)	(n=72)	(n=42)	
completely believable (9-10)	70%	81%	45% ++	62%	
moderately believable (7-8)	27%	15%	37%	26%	
not so believable (1-6)	3%	4%	18%	12%	

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⁴ Statistical significance is based on probabilities; in general differences with a less-than-five percent chance of being random (p<.05) are considered statistically significant. Standards like this are important so that findings are not arbitrarily considered noteworthy.

C.2. Was the information familiar or new?

OVERVIEW: One concern of the exhibit team is that if this exhibition is just 'preaching to the choir,' then the information may not be new to visitors. The results support this concern: most visitors (76%) felt that they were already familiar with at least half of the exhibit content. However, 82% were able to cite at least one piece of information that was new, including tree rings, alternative energy (especially examples of how other countries are already using nuclear, solar, and geothermal energy), ocean impacts, animal impacts, carbon capture, facts about coal, and effects on humans. 'Sympathetic' visitors found more that was new than did 'active' visitors.

What percentage of what's in this exhibition was NEW to you?

	Overall (n=295)	<u>Active</u> (n=166)	Sympathetic (n=129)
less than 15%	22%	28%	** 14%
15-25%	27%	28%	26%
30-45%	27%	25%	29%
50% or more	24%	19%	32%

Give an example of something that was new for you:

[FORM B; n=101]

16%	tree rings
11%	alternative energies (especially solar, geothermal)
10%	impact on oceans, acidification, coral bleaching
9%	impacts on polar bears, fox, animal cycles ('sympathetics' only)
8%	carbon capture, role of trees, oceans ('actives' only)
8%	coal – how much we use, how much CO ₂ produced
8%	effects on humans: severe weather, disease, etc.
5%	sea level rise – NYC model
5%	CO ₂ graph, CO ₂ challenge
4%	ice at poles reflects sunlight
4%	what other countries are doing already
4%	how we can help, hopeful message
3%	ice core technology
2%	green buildings
2%	solutions video
2%	info about cars and oil
7%	other
18%	nothing new

An example of something new for you:

Sample of answers

Some of the effects, photography made it poignant

Different types of alternative energy, changes that weren't evident

Tree exhibit

Coal

Ocean was greater at absorbing carbon than trees

Part about fox, also didn't know much about coal

Solar could be 100%, spread of disease

The tree rings, sea rise

Thing with polar bear, Iceland uses 90% geothermal energy

Corals, I didn't know much about life in oceans

About cars

That France is 80% nuclear

No idea how much energy and pollution produced by coal

Manhattan's future outlook

Surprised about amount of solar energy in Kenya

Solution graph, the CO_2 challenge, best

Impact on animals

Tree rings, sediment core and shellfish

Seven year cycle globe

The rate of the ice melting, NYC flood

The plants on the wall

 CO_2

Information on coral reefs

Reflection of sun on ice shelf

Ocean acidification

Polar bears being forced into residential areas

Carbon capture

Tree rings

Luminescence of arctic ice sheets, patches that float as solution

Hundred percent of electricity can come from solar panels

Amount of light reflected by snow at poles

Carbon sequestration

Wind turbine and effects on polar bear

Coal produces carbon into air, sewer, storms

Tree rings area

The coral reefs, what does healthy coral look like?

The options to make building sustainable, greener

Chart, timeline of rise of CO_2 , pollution from geothermal

Solutions film, what other countries are doing; rising sea level

Plankton they make skeletons

Tree rings

Earlier onset of spring

Glaciers over land are safer than ice shelves

Tree rings
Interior of nuclear reactor
Polar bear, sea temperature data
Percentages of global energy from alternative fuels
1.4 percent increase only on average, there are many ways to save
Carbon capture, relative alternative energy percentages
Rise of severe rainstorms and more snow
Cement technology's carbon footprint
Polar ice core technology, reflectivity of ice
Red line graph in the first room
Ice core reading technology

C.3. Knowledge of climate issues: before vs. after

OVERVIEW: Visitors' familiarity with 12 climate change issues was measured in both the Entrance and Exit surveys. Results show that most (74% or more) 'active' visitors were familiar with eight of these issues when they entered the exhibition. They gained knowledge on only two issues: coal and tree rings. Among 'sympathetic' visitors, there was more room for impacts on knowledge because they were only clearly familiar with four of the issues when they entered the exhibition. 'Sympathetic' visitors showed significant gains on seven of the issues: severe storms, coral reefs, consumer choices, polar bears, ice cores, coal, and tree rings. For sympathetic visitors, the level of awareness of these issues "caught up" to the 'active' visitors so that when they left the exhibition, there were no differences in knowledge based on environmental attitudes. This suggests that the information was accessible to less environmentally-oriented people.

Do you know how these are related to climate change? (ENT, EXIT A) (select the ones you know about enough that you could say a sentence or two about it)

		Active		Sympathetic		netic
		Entrance	Exit	Entrance	<u>e</u>	Exit
	arctic ice melting	97% *:	* 80%	91%		84%
cart	oon dioxide emissions	87%	80%	79%		79%
	greenhouse effect	84%	80%	76%		77%
	severe storms	82%	76%	53%	**	71%
	coral reefs	77%	69%	51%	**	68%
alter	native energy sources	75%	82%	72%	++	82%
	consumer choices	74%	78%	59%	**	74%
	polar bears	74%	72%	56%	**	71%
	ice cores	63%	63%	25%	**	57%
wildlit	fe reproduction cycles	61% +-	+ 49%	39%		38%
	coal	53% *:	* 75%	39%	**	70%
	tree rings	52% +-	+ 64%	18%	**	60%
bogus items,	sun spots ⁵	40% **	* 16%	21%		16%
testing accuracy	earthquake activity ⁶	36% *:	* 18%	23%	**	10%
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⁵ This item is not related to the exhibition, but was added to the list as a validity check. The fact that some people said they knew how this relates to climate change suggests some "overconfidence" in these figures. However, it is reassuring that people were less likely to indicate an association with climate change when leaving the exhibition (because there was nothing in the exhibition about sun spots).

⁶ Another false item, unrelated to the exhibition.

Knowledge of climate issues (continued)

OVERVIEW: Using a variation in questioning to explore what content visitors may have gotten from the exhibition, the findings show that most visitors (60%+), regardless of environmental orientation, said they found out about four topics: alternative energy, carbon dioxide, severe storms, and artic ice melt. At least half of the visitors also found out about coal, tree rings, consumer choices, greenhouse effect, coral reefs and polar bears.

Did you find out anything about how these topics are related to climate change? (EXIT B)

	Overall (n=97)	Active (n=54)	Sympathetic (n=43)
alternative energy sources	63%	61%	65%
carbon dioxide emissions	61%	59%	63%
severe storms	61%	61%	61%
arctic ice melting	60%	56%	65%
coal	58%	61%	58%
tree rings	57%	57%	58%
consumer choices	56%	54%	63%
greenhouse effect	54%	54%	58%
coral reefs	53%	52%	54%
polar bears	51%	48%	56%
ice cores	46%	50%	44%
wildlife reproduction cycles	24%	24%	26%
sun spots	12%	7%	19%
earthquake activity	12%	13%	12%

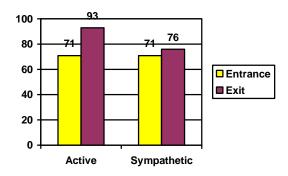
C.4. Awareness that climate is already changing

OVERVIEW: One of the intended interpretive messages of this exhibition is that climate change is already happening, it's not just a potential future concern. Results from an openended question show that most visitors (72%) knew this before seeing the exhibition. Among actives there was a significant increase in the proportion who knew this after seeing the exhibition (from 71% to 93%). Among sympathetic visitors, there was no increase.

When do you think climate change will actually affect things on the planet? (ENT, EXIT B)

Entrance 72%	Exit B 86%
15%	5%
9% 4%	9% 0
	72% 15% 9%

Awareness that climate change is <u>already</u> affecting things increased among actives after seeing the exhibit



Awareness that climate is already changing (continued)

OVERVIEW: Among people who indicated they knew the climate is already changing, the examples most frequently given include: ice is melting, more storms, heat waves, and erratic weather patterns.

(if already changing) *Give an example of something that is already changing:* [FORMS A&B; n=304]

29%	ice melting (polar: 21% / glaciers: 8%)
23%	more storms, rain, floods
19%	temperature, warmer, heat waves
13%	weather patterns, erratic, drastic
9%	species dying, threatened (especially coral reefs)
7%	more fires, drought
6%	sea level rising
6%	just "weather"
5%	seasons, longer growing, early spring
5%	bird migratory patterns, animal ranges, habitats
4%	personal reflection about local weather changes
3%	oceans (warming, acidification)
2%	CO ₂ levels
7%	other

<< sample of answers on the next page >>

Sample of answers: something that is already changing

My home town had three feet of snow, largest amount before was seventeen inches More floods

Storms we see all the time on the news

Glaciers melting

The intensity and strength of storms

CO₂ level, ice caps breaking up, more hurricanes, other weather related changes

Hurricanes in south and increased storms and distribution of Lyme disease

Temperature

Seasons

Oceans are changing, jelly fish on coasts

Sea levels are rising, seasons shorter, fire season longer, heat wave in Europe

There was more snow when I was a little kid

Seen changes in Alaska w/ Tanger melting, and Antarctica w/ penguin populations Flooding

Ice in Greenland is melting faster than usual

The weather

Polar ice caps and storms

Strength of hurricanes, flooding and droughts, disappearance of glaciers

The capacity for us to grow food, erosion of land

More dangerous storms

Ice sheets and changes in global temperature, changes in sea level

Warmer summers/colder winters

The storms/severe weather

Eskimos have to move because sea level is rising

Temperature levels and drought

Change in drought and rainfall

Reduction of caps, glaciers shrinking

Ocean levels are rising

Heat wave in Europe, tsunamis and hurricane Katrina

In Argentina glaciers are melting

Corals are dying

Plankton and animals affected

Evidence in changing habitats

Rising sea levels, change in weather

Melting of ice caps. 1% change in temperature

Polar ice melting, sea level rising

Effects on polar ice cap, temperature, weather

Storms are more intense

Greenland ice sheets

Drought is becoming more prevalent around the world

Arctic is changing, moss that caribou feed on is disappearing

Melting of polar ice caps, accelerated species extinction rate

Species are dying out (frogs); causes chain reaction

Shrinking of glaciers and mountains, indigenous people who are vulnerable

Temperature fluctuations, extreme changes from day to day, week to week

C.5. Awareness of the causes of climate change

OVERVIEW: Visitors got the message that CO₂ emissions are a main cause of climate change. Although visitors were able to give reasonable causes of climate change before entering the exhibition (e.g., humans, emissions, pollution), the answers of exiting visitors were more specific (especially: CO₂, burning fossil fuels).

What do you think are the main cause or causes of climate change?

Entrance	Exit A	
(n=138)	(n=203)	
22%	49%	CO2 emissions
3%	24%	burning fossil fuels
41%	23%	humans
9%	9%	cars, transportation
8%	9%	energy consumption, power plants
6%	7%	industry, industrialization
7%	6%	stupid, greedy people, wasteful
3%	4%	methane, cows
1%	4%	deforestation
11%	4%	natural cycle, sun spots
2%	4%	coal
10%	4%	greenhouse effect (no specific gas mentioned)
17%	3%	pollution, trash
3%	7%	other
1%	0	don't know

C.6. Awareness of solutions

OVERVIEW: Nearly half of the visitors got the message that alternative energy is the most effective solution. This is a fairly high figure for an open-ended question, and really supports the curatorial main message.

What would be the most effective types of solutions to help with climate change problems? [FORM A; n=203]

48%	alternative energy sources, clean energy
17%	consumer lifestyle changes
16%	energy conservation
14%	less driving, public transportation, fuel efficient cars
14%	large scale political & economic change, regulations, caps, taxes
13%	use less fossil fuels, reduce CO ₂ emissions
6%	recycling
3%	stop cutting trees
2%	green building
8%	other

Sample of answers

Alternative life styles

Stop cutting down trees

Investigating alternative energy sources, consumer changes, just a small change by millions

Reduce consumption, awareness, a lot of people still haven't got it

Change in lifestyle

Government needs to get involved, make laws and force people

Using less fossil fuels

Large scale investments politically and financially

Recycling and nuclear energy

Conservation, changing energy sources

Don't know, people listen but then forget

Having a cap on national emissions

Reducing energy use in general, research alternative fuels

Everyday actions, regulatory changes

Taxes, the price of energy should be higher and to disseminate information

Awareness of the problem, taking steps afterward

Alternative sources of energy, driving less, using less electricity, recycling

Solar energy, wind, tidal, and reduce consumption

Cut down on CO_2 emission in day to day life and industry

Reduce CO₂ emissions, alternative energy sources

Drastic changes in life cycle for large portion of world population, explore different sources of energy

Limiting consumption

Government start subsidizing alternative energy

*Reducing CO*² *emissions*

Reduction, alternative energy, change lifestyle

Being prepared, reduce carbon foot prints

Infrastructure/transportation

Personal conservation as part of it, multi faceted plan for alternative energies

More energy efficient homes and cars, alternative energy sources

Alternative energy, lifestyle changes

Alternative energy and using less energy

Conserve, find alternative energy sources, eat more responsibly, avoid fast food

Green energy

Change the energy source

Alternative fuels

Reduce carbon dioxide; wind turbines

Cutting back energy usage

Alternative energy sources

Changing how we get our energy

Finding new ways of energy generation; consumer changes

Combinations of solutions, nuclear to individual

Reduce the use of fossil fuels, use alternative energy

Use less fossil fuels

Use less energy

Reduce emissions

Individually changing consumption and recycling habits, researching alternative energies

Reduce amount of carbon dioxide, store it somewhere, remove it from atmosphere

Energy conservation, smaller cars

Affordable technology and awareness, education

Recycling, limiting fossil fuel emissions

Nuclear power on a local scale, hybrid and electric cars, public transportation, more alternatives to driving; renewable energy

Clean energy, humans using reusable materials, conservation

Create economics that focus on solutions

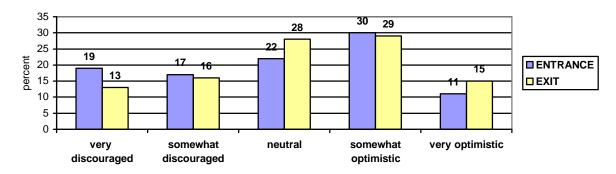
C.7. Affective impact

OVERVIEW: Two different approaches were used to assess visitors' feelings about climate change: one used a single 11-point scale with '-5' and '+5' at the ends. The other approach used two separate 10-point scales (results presented on the next page). The single-scale approach showed that most visitors were either neutral-mixed (26-32%) or somewhat optimistic (24-29%). There was no difference between entering and exiting visitors. There were also no significant differences in reactions among 'active' and 'sympathetic' people.

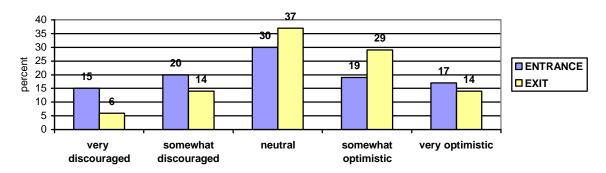
Based on everything you know about climate change, how discouraged or optimistic do you feel? (on a scale of -5 to +5) (Entrance, Exit A)

	Entrance	Exit A
very discouraged (-5,-4)	17%	10%
discouraged (-3,-2)	20%	15%
neither/ neutral (-1,0,+1)	26%	32%
optimistic $(+2,+3)$	24%	29%
very optimistic (+4,+5)	14%	15%

Among 'active' people, ratings of discouragement / optimism didn't change much



Among 'sympathetic' people, there is a mild shift in ratings, away from being discouraged (but the difference from Entrance to Exit is not statistically significant)



Affective impact (continued)

OVERVIEW: A second approach to measuring discouragement and optimism – using two separate scales – shows that most people leaving the exhibition were a little-to-moderately discouraged about climate change and at the same time a little-to-moderately optimistic about what can be done. The patterns of results were not significantly different for 'active' and 'sympathetic' people. The results indicate that many people are "on the fence," not sure how they feel about this huge, complicated issue that they as individuals do not have the power to fix.

How discouraged do you feel about climate change, on a scale of 1 to 10? (Exit B) How optimistic do you feel about what can be done about climate change? (Exit B)

	Exit B	<u>Active</u>	<u>Sympathetic</u>
very discouraged (9,10)	23%	22%	22%
moderately discouraged (7-8)	30%	35%	22%
a little discouraged (5-6)	36%	29%	46%
not too discouraged (1-4)	11%	14%	10%
very optimistic (9-10)	13%	18%	7%
moderately optimistic (7-8)	27%	28%	21%
a little optimistic (5-6)	42%	41%	46%
not too optimistic (1-4)	19%	13%	26%

Affective impacts (continued)

OVERVIEW: The polar bear on the garbage pile was most frequently cited as the most discouraging thing people saw in the exhibition. It seems to be a powerful visual example of how climate change is already impacting our planet. Other discouraging things mentioned were that people are not doing enough to change, the increase in CO₂, and hearing about severe weather events.

What was the most discouraging thing?

[FORMS A&B; n=304]

31%	effects on wildlife and habitats (polar bear on garbage)
11%	that people don't care, don't act, stupidity
10%	CO ₂ emission rate rising, red line
10%	storms, disasters, heat waves, people suffering
8%	impacts on oceans, coral, plankton, acidification
7%	sea level rise, NY city model
6%	it's real and already happening
5%	melting ice caps and glaciers
4%	a huge problem, will take global action to fix
4%	exhibit – not enough info, not strong enough
4%	visuals of all the cars, future energy needs (especially Asia)
6%	other
9%	no answer, don't know

Sample of answers

Red line at the beginning and industrialization of China and India

Reality of climate change and ignorance

Lots of poor people who need energy

Coral reef and polar bears

Evidence that CO_2 concentration increasing and amount of fossil fuel still dependent on

The burning of trees - rainforest

Rate of change over last 100 years, wish there was more about lack of government action We are not doing enough, large undertaking is necessary

Polar bear graphic

Polar bear

The polar bear's habitat being destroyed

Graph at the beginning

The things on the ocean, coral reefs

More technology more problems

Changes in habitat

Polar bears

The species that could die out

The exhibit is ineffective in that it does not sell

The rising sea levels to life in the ocean and human life

The animals/wildlife cycles have or are being changed

City flooding, images of millions of people being moved around, agriculture Lack of data

The speed at which climate change is occurring

It is so overwhelming, it is a huge interconnected problem

The extent of the increase in CO_2

Thinking about whether anyone was going to pay attention

That it's already happening, all we can do is make it not as severe

Lack of people in exhibit, personal solutions aren't the big thing

We are not doing enough to change our habits

The little pied flycatchers going extinct

Easy things that people can do to help but don't

Ppm graph- the trend went up 100 in 450 years

Coal energy is the most used

Countries have not gotten together

Polar bear on trash

Negative things we are doing to environment

Bangladesh and polar bear

The increase in global warming

We continue to use fossil fuels carelessly

Polar bear, so much garbage

Model of Manhattan flooding

The fact that positive information was presented al all

Intensity of weather changes

Effects of pollution

Ice melting

Unknowns about the ocean because you can't deal with something if it's unknown

Information about flood and weather events

Manhattan flooding

That we've already caused damage

Acidifying of the ocean

Polar bear on a trash heap

Affective impacts (continued)

OVERVIEW: Alternative energy sources were most frequently cited as the most hopeful thing people saw in this exhibition. Other categories of answers included: this exhibit educating people, solutions (unclear if referring to alternative energy or something else), and "people pushing the buttons for change."

What was the most hopeful thing?

[FORMS A&B; n=304]

35%	alternative energy
18%	this exhibit, educating people (especially children)
14%	solutions (no specifics)
13%	little things people can do, people pushing buttons to commit
9%	people and governments are working on it
5%	message board, comments and opinions
5%	videos (especially Bloomberg one)
5%	other
5%	no answer, don't know

Sample of answers

Renewable energy

Video of what could be done to reduce fossil fuels

Countries are looking for new ways to conserve energy

Solar panels, effective green buildings

Spreading information to the public

It gives many solutions, simple

Having this exhibit

Alternative clean energy

Energy alternatives

Alternative energy (wind or solar)

Tack board (message board)

Wind energy

Solar panels

Examples about solutions

Display of things people can do to help

We have to turn green, like it or not

The ways to conserve energy in everyday life

Alternative energy

Political leaders saying that we need to do something

Solutions that are presented and nuclear power

The alternative energy sources room

That there is an exhibit about something like this

Last section, alternative energy

That it was here

That some of these alternatives are being developed

Some of the nuclear and other things that can be used

Human nature to find solutions

People pushing the buttons for change

Wind power

Alternative energies

Making people aware of the problem

Plant wall

Things can be changed by using alternative energy

Plant trees and maintaining environment

Children's flash cards

People are responding on the solutions

Many potential solutions

100% of our energy could be met by the sun

Kids suggestions

People are getting new solutions

Renewable energy

Solving the problem facts at exit, solar, water, carbon capture

Education of children

Good turnout and good presentation

People starting to take more action

Amount of alternative fuel sources available/pending

Lots of mention of things people can do right now

Visual, with animals and climate

Board where people could make suggestions

Solar panels

Solar panels, tree planting

Solutions individuals can partake in

D. Contributions of specific exhibits

This section of the report explores visitors' perceptions of specific exhibit elements, including issues such as: which exhibits best conveyed the main messages? what did people think of the animated globes and videos? did people really understand the point of some of the exhibits? Some highlights of these findings are:

- Visitors thought that the NYC Flood Model and the Polar Bear exhibit did the best job of convincing people that climate change is a serious problem. These very graphic images had an impact on people.
- Visitors selected the Actions Wall most often as doing the best job of talking about big solutions, which suggests that many people didn't get the message that individual consumer choices are not enough to solve the problem. However, the second and third most frequent selections were the Last Video and the Alternative Energy Area.
- Visitors chose four exhibits as doing the best job of showing the evidence for climate change: Ice Cores, Polar Bear, Tree Rings, and the Intro Area.
- The active visual media (rotating globes, videos) were well-received. The text panels and hands-on exhibits were moderately well-received but were also perceived as needing improvement (e.g. visitors commented that there was too much text and that there could be more interactives).
- Most visitors showed a reasonable understanding of select exhibits (if they stopped there): Polar Bear, Tree Rings, Coal, Intro Area, and Alternative Energy. However, two of these exhibits were skipped by about 20% of the audience: Tree Rings and Alternative Energy.

Exhibit Photos shown to visitors for the questions in section D1



TREE RINGS



ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AREA



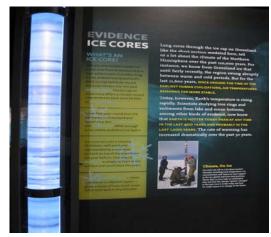
NY CITY FLOOD MODEL



COMMENT CARDS



ACTIONS WALL



ICE CORES

Exhibit Photos (continued)



LAST VIDEO – ENERGY FUTURE



BEHAVIOR CHANGE KIOSKS



POLAR BEAR ON GARBAGE



SUN ANGLE INTERACTIVE



INTRO TIMELINE



ICE CAPS INTERACTIVE

D.1. Which exhibits did the best job of showing main messages?

OVERVIEW: Climate change is a serious problem.

Based on visitors' selections among 12 exhibit photos, the message that 'climate change is a serious problem' was best depicted by the NY City Flood Model and the Polar Bear (disturbing visual images). There were a few differences between active and sympathetic people: for example, actives were more likely to choose the Intro Area (red line graph of CO₂ increase). Nearly one-quarter of visitors chose the Actions Wall, which doesn't really make sense for this question (perhaps they thought it was effective in a different way: for convincing people that they should change their habits).

Which of these parts of the exhibit do you think did the best job of . . . convincing people that climate change is a <u>serious problem</u>?
[PHOTOS; EXIT A]

	<u>Serious</u>	<u>Active</u>	Sympathetic
	(n=198)	(n=112)	(n=86)
NYC Flood Model	46%	47%	44%
Polar Bear	41%	43%	38%
Intro Area	27%	32%	** 20%
Actions Wall	23%	23%	22%
Ice Caps Reflect Interactive	16%	21%	** 9%
Last Video	15%	16%	13%
Ice Cores	14%	12%	16%
Tree Rings	10%	5%	** 16%
Last Area (Solutions)	10%	10%	9%
Conservation Kiosks	10%	10%	9%
Sun Angle Interactive	7%	9%	5%
Comment Cards	6%	6%	6%

(average of 21/4 selections per person)

Which exhibits showed main messages? (continued)

OVERVIEW: There are big solutions to climate change.

The exhibit that visitors chose most often as depicting 'big solutions to climate change' was the Actions Wall, followed by the Alternative Energy Video and the Alternative Energy Area. These findings again suggest that visitors are more tuned-in to messages about individual conservation actions and had a harder time getting the message that alternative energy sources are the best solution. Also, the Actions Wall was popular and well-used, and it may be that people didn't pay quite as much attention to the last area about alternative energy.

Which of these parts of the exhibit do you think did the best job of . . . (photos) talking about big solutions to climate change?

	Solutions (n=198)	Active (n=112)	Sympathetic (n=86)	
Actions Wall	44%	49%	++ 3	7%
Alternative Energy Video	34%	36%	32	2%
Alternative Energy Area	28%	28%	2	7%
Behavior Change Kiosks	15%	14%	1′	7%
Comment Cards	8%	4%	** 13	3%
Ice Caps Reflect Interactive	3%	2%		5%
Polar Bear	3%	1%		5%
Intro Area	3%	3%		2%
NYC Flood Model	2%	3%		1%
Ice Cores	2%	2%		2%
Sun Angle Interactive	2%	3%	(0
Tree Rings	0	0	(0

(average of 1½ selections per person)

Which exhibits showed main messages? (continued)

OVERVIEW: Showing the evidence for climate change.

Four exhibits were selected as doing the best job of showing 'the evidence for climate change:' Ice cores, Polar bear, Tree rings and Intro area. Three of these are about technical data, which is a very positive indication that some people are paying attention to the details. Again, the Polar Bear is considered to be effective, even though it doesn't really show evidence (rather it is a strong visual/psychological reminder of the consequences of climate change and some visitors see this as 'evidence').

Which of these parts of the exhibit do you think did the best job of . . . (photos) showing the evidence for climate change?

	Evidence (n=198)	<u>Active</u> (n=112)	Sympathetic (n=86)
Ice Cores Polar Bear	29% 28%	34% 27%	23% 29%
Tree Rings	25%	29%	20%
Intro Area	25%	27%	23%
NYC Flood Model	15%	18%	10%
Ice Caps Reflect Interactive	15%	16%	14%
Sun Angle Interactive	8%	9%	7%
Last Area (Solutions)	4%	4%	4%
Last Video	4%	7%	0
Actions Wall	3%	2%	4%
Comment Cards	1%	1%	0
Conservation Kiosks	1%	1%	1%

(average of 1½ selections per person)

D.2. Visitor opinions of different types of exhibits

OVERVIEW: Visitors liked the rotating globes and videos – 81% said these 'active visual images' were perfect. However, several people (8%) thought the rotating globes were confusing or didn't give much information (results on the next page). Visitor reaction to the text panels and interactive exhibits was somewhat less positive, although mostly favorable – about 60% said they were perfect. Most of the comments about the text panels suggested that there was too much text. A few people had difficulty with the red text. Most of the comments about the hands-on exhibits indicated that people wanted more interactives. Several people had difficulty understanding some of the hands-on exhibits.

The designers would like some feedback on three types of exhibit elements -- in terms of the number of them and how worthwhile they were, would you say they were perfect as is or they could use some improvement? [EXIT B; n=101]

	Perfect as is	Could <u>improve</u>
active visual images (e.g., rotating globes, video theaters)	81%	19%
text panels	62%	38%
hands-on exhibits	58%	42%

How could <u>text panels</u> be improved?

14%	too much text, too long
9%	too many text panels
5%	more colorful, more graphics
4%	hard to see red text with lighting
2%	use additional languages
3%	other

How could <u>hands-on</u> exhibits be improved?

23%	have more interactives
10%	hard to understand, need staff to explain
7%	lame, not engaging
4%	other (not working, hard to see, etc.)

Answers about being 'hard to understand'

Need staff demonstrating
Didn't quite understand Pangea
Not well explained
Good, but some not easy to understand
Ice pieces was confusing
Temperature guns were fixed in place
Weren't clear, a little unsophisticated

Opinions about different types of exhibits (continued)

How could active visual images be improved?

8% globes confusing, didn't show much
5% suggestions about the videos
3% have more globes

Globes

Not informative enough, not precise
Wasn't clear what it was trying to show
The globe with clouds was not self explanatory
Confusing, push button, not sure what happened, what was result?
Globes don't give any information
Globes do not do anything
Globes were least illuminating
Too similar to each other

Videos

More information, couple of minutes longer Didn't think showing a face of the expert was useful in the second one Theaters could be more dynamic Would like a timer or some way to know where you are in the movie when playing

D.3. Understanding the Polar Bear

OVERVIEW: Although the Polar Bear display was popular and almost everybody saw it, the exhibit team wondered what message people were really getting from it. The findings are mixed: one-fifth of visitors clearly understood the point of this exhibit, two-fifths probably got the point but weren't as articulate, and one-fifth got the wrong message – that our trash is threatening the polar bear.

What does this polar bear exhibit have to do with climate change? [FORM B; n=101]

20%	ice melting, must forage for food
41%	losing habitat, encroaching (didn't say food)
100/	
19%	our trash is threatening polar bears
5%	endangered animal, shock value
12%	other / unclear
7%	don't know, didn't see



Sample of answers

They're declining, rams home the trash aspect

It's natural habitat is being destroyed has to seek out other food, around humans

Their natural habitat is melting away

Best image, not in pristine land anymore, encroaching human space

Since they couldn't hunt in ice caps, foraging of dumps

It's having a hard time finding food, receding of ice, losing habitat

Losing his territory

Waste is threatening polar bear

Impact on animal life

They can't do anything must adapt

Cc is affecting his environment, can't hunt

How it will be in future if we don't watch our behavior

Foraging in junk pile

Going away from natural habitat, nearer to humans

Ice is disappearing, throw back from technology

It has lost his space and has to forage

Demonstrates how human waste negatively impacts polar bear population

Ice is melting and they are losing lives

People throwing garbage in wild habitat, endangering

Because arctic is melting

To show pollution and how it affects animals

Didn't see problem with waste but hunting grounds disturbed

The loss of habitat and source of food

Impact on large arctic mammals, loss of habitat

Habitat is being destroyed, ice melting

Endangered species

Dying off; meeting with other bear species (brown, grizzly)

D.4. Understanding the Tree rings

OVERVIEW: Slightly more than half of the visitors (55%) reasonably answered a question about the point of the tree rings exhibit. About one-quarter didn't really understand the relationship between tree rings and climate, and one-quarter didn't recall seeing this exhibit.

Why were the tree rings in the exhibit? [FORM B; n=101]

27%	see history: climate/ growth conditions (general answers)
25%	see history: drought, fires, wet conditions (more specific answers)
3%	see history: temperatures, warming
6%	trees are dying due to pollution
5%	measure CO ₂
4%	see age of trees
3%	trees are being cut down
7%	other
23%	don't know, didn't see



Sample of answers

Don't cut the wood, the trees

Climate change, moisture, temperature makes them grow faster or not

Time capsules hold info from past

Showed how droughts affected growth of trees

Rings show age of the tree, see cracks forming

Killing trees, CO₂

How we can study past weather

They show CO₂ levels similar to ice thing

Shows droughts, wildfires

Shows history of changes in climate

Showed droughts over time, tool for measuring

Can read history of good/bad years

How long trees live, increase in pollution decrease length of tree life

Shows weather change, sunlight effects

Tree rings are really informative by how climate changes

To see changes in growing conditions

Shows changes in climate (in their growth)

Showed effects of climate change on growth of tree

Tell us when climate jumps occurred

Thinner in dry years

Climate change is ruining trees

Difference in thickness shows drought periods over the last several hundred years

Droughts with timeline (colored dots)

Anti-logging (not sure)

Shows climate change

D.5. Understanding the Coal

OVERVIEW: Most visitors (~70%) articulated a reasonable message about the point of the Coal exhibit. Only a small portion of visitors (8%) didn't see this exhibit.

Why was there a hunk of coal in this exhibit? [FORM B; n=101]

reasonable answers:

37%	burning coal emits CO ₂
13%	fossil fuel, we use it for energy
13%	how much coal is used today
12%	how much energy coal gives off
5%	burning coal causes pollution
3%	large reserves of coal, inexpensive fuel

not so good:

14%	see what it looks like, feel it, now di
7%	early fuel, not used anymore
3%	our coal reserves are depleted
9%	other / unclear
8%	don't know, didn't see



Sample of answers

It's declining, source of pollution

Coal is big reason humans seeing CO_2 in atmosphere

Major problem for modern life, causes burden

So we could see what it looked like

That huge chunk of coal only produces a little bit of energy

Back in the days of trains, a source of CO_2

Fossil fuel burning is main contributor

To see it, how much coal there is

People burn coal to use as fuel

Where our co2 has come from

Obvious, this is what we used for energy

To illustrate what a ton looks like and how much CO₂ is going into atmosphere

Show that coal is a problem

Show type of energy a ton of coal can produce

Just to show coal since it's a main topic

Coal source of energy, producing too much carbon

Advocates of man made global warming attribute reason to coal

Because coal causes radiation, pollution

One of the main contributors to climate change

Using coal for energy but need new source

Coal is leading culprit for CO₂ emissions

To show us what we use for energy

To give us a visual of how dirty it is

D.6. Understanding the Introductory Area

OVERVIEW: Almost half of the visitors (46%) clearly got the message of this area about CO₂ increasing; an additional 38% gave reasonable answers referring to the timeline but didn't specifically mention CO₂. About one-tenth of the visitors didn't really stop in this area or didn't know what it was about.

What was the point of these exhibits in the first room? [FORM B; n=101]

46% increasing energy needs, CO₂ rising38% history of energy use, timeline

6% other / unclear

11% don't know, didn't stop



Sample of answers

Unbelievable how after 1850 it was increasing problems

Showing the change over the decades due to fossil fuels

With development of technology, population and economy, CO_2 is growing exponentially

History on the economy growth, population growth, CO₂ growth

CO₂ emissions how its grown over time

Shows rapid change in energy use

Show growing economy, population and CO₂

Energy use over years, we're using more now

Evolution of energy, industrial revolution, rapid growth of energy use

Development of energy

Changing our energy source

Clear, to show how much it's increased over the years

Red line shows increasing CO_2 over time (very effective)

Industrial revolution, fossil fuel dramatic increase

Timeline extremely short given whole span of time

To focus on amount of fossil fuel we are consuming

Show level of CO_2 has been rising rapidly recently

Showed concentration of CO_2 in atmosphere from industrialization

Visualize the change in activity and how much we use now

To show us how "progress" is detrimental

The progression of industrial usage

Shows the rise of the level of CO_2

*CO*² *increased recently in atmosphere*

To explain the start of energy in the industrial revolution

An Inconvenient Truth showed this; exponential increase of CO₂ emissions with population

Timeline of industrial age

Shows emissions over time

How society was building (population, technology) and effects on atmospheric CO₂

How we lived before; and technology's effect on CO_2 levels

D.7. Understanding the Last Area (alternative energies)

OVERVIEW: About two-thirds of the visitors gave a reasonable explanation of the point of the last area. About one-fifth of the visitors said they didn't stop here (some fatigue evident at the end of the exhibition).

What was the point of these exhibits in the last room? [FORM B; n=101]

38%	alternative energy sources
16%	nuclear power, solar, wind
8%	solutions for the future
8%	new technologies, carbon capture
5%	what we can do to change
4%	didn't like this area, no interaction
11%	other / unclear
19%	don't know, didn't stop



Sample of answers

Less impressed with these exhibits

To educate about alternative energy

To make us aware of what we need to do to change

What the alternatives are - nuclear, etc.

Nuclear reactors, it's dangerous, a bomb could destroy us all

Suggest alternative forms of energy production

Different types of energy, good for long term or not

Show how we can change, alternative fuel sources

Alternative energy sources

Changing our energy source

New info

Alternatives

Left coal out, other forms, how to improve

New energy

Alternative solutions

Alternative energy

Technology has given new ways to produce energy

Saw solar panels

To show us new technologies

To give us hope about what we can do

I had trouble relating them to each other and have a solar panel

Offering alternative solutions and giving hope and inspiration

Alternative energy

Too much information! Got burned out by the end

Nuclear energy is available

Things we can do to slow the trend

Carbon capture

E. Observational studies of selected exhibits

This section of the report summarizes the results of four separate "mini-studies" using observational methods to address questions about usage of specific exhibit areas or components. The key findings are:

- Intro Area: are visitors rushing through this space? No, most visitors spent a reasonable amount of time here (average = 3 minutes) and most visitors stopped to look at multiple components, especially some of the vitrines and dates along the timeline (1650, 1900, 2000). The main message text panel was skipped by 80% of visitors.
- Conservation Behaviors Area: are visitors bypassing this area? No, most adults (64%) were attracted to the Actions Wall, and only 14% passed through this area without stopping anywhere. Children were less likely to stop at the Actions Wall first (42%), and somewhat more likely to pass by the area without stopping at any of the three components (26%).
- Actions Wall: are visitors engaged by this exhibit?
 Yes, adult visitors who stopped to look at this exhibit spent time at the wall (at least 2 minutes on average), most looked at five or more of the seven topics, and about half pushed at least one button.
- Behavior Change Computers: do people using these computers see that the big screen on the wall is part of this exhibit? No, only one-third of the computer users appeared to look at the big screen.

E.1. Intro Area

ISSUE: The Intro Area was selected for an observational study because the exhibit team had concerns about whether people were spending any time here or just rushing through.

METHOD: The method consisted of observing 56 visitors as they went through this area and recording the length of time spent and where they stopped.

RESULTS:

- o Most people did spend a reasonable amount of time here (3 minutes on average).
- O Visitors stopped to look at multiple elements (5 stops on average).
- o The most frequently used elements were the greenhouse gas panel, the vitrine with coal and several spots along the timeline (1650, 1900, and 2000).
- One finding of potential concern is that only 20% of visitors stopped to look at the main message panel.



E.1.a. Sample characteristics of Intro Area

OVERVIEW: A total of 56 adult visitors (alone, with other adults, with children) were observed as they went through this first room of the exhibition. The observations were conducted primarily on weekdays so most of the visitor groups consisted of adults visiting without children. The sample includes equal proportions of men and women. Most of these observations occurred when the exhibit was not busy, so that visitors' choices of what to do and see were not constrained by other visitors' use of the space.

and see were not constrained by c	(n=56)
Gender:	(11–30)
men	52%
women	48%
Group composition:	
adults-only	76%
family with children	24%
Group size:	
one	29%
two	54%
three	13%
four or more	4%
Day type:	
weekday	91%
weekend	9%
Amount of other visitors:	
light (0-3 users)	82%
medium (4-9 users)	13%
crowded (10+ users)	5%

E.1.b. What did visitors do in the Intro Area?

OVERVIEW: People spent about three minutes, on average, in the first room. The vast majority of visitors (87%) stopped at least once – the average number of stops was five. About three-quarters of the visitors stopped at one or more of the vitrines, two-thirds stopped somewhere along the timeline, and half stopped at one of the message panels (primarily the second one about greenhouse gases). Social interaction occurred among half of the visitor groups in this area.

Time	spent

under 1 minute	29%	
1 minute to under 3 minutes	19%	(first half of exhibit: 1 min. 52 sec.)
3 to under 5 minutes	20%	Median $= 3$ minutes 8 seconds
5 minutes or more	32%	

Number of stops:

none	13%	
one, two or three	27%	
four, five or six	21%	Median = 5 stops
seven, eight or nine	20%	_
ten or more	20%	

Stops along TIMELINE

1600	34%	70% stopped at least once
1650	50%	7070 Stopped at least once
1700	20%	Average number of stops $= 2$
1750	14%	Trerage number of stops 2
1800	36%	
1850	27%	
1900	45%	
1950	18%	
2000	48%	

Stops at MESSAGE PANELS

main message panel	20%	57% stopped at any panels
greenhouse gas panel	52%	11 51

Stops at VITRINES

coal	50%	79% stopped at one or more
steam	43%	79% stopped at one of more
lights	41%	Average number of stops $= 2$
computers	39%	11, erage number of stops 2

Social interaction?

talking among group (of 2+ people)	51%
no interaction (among 2+ people)	49%

E.2. Conservation Behaviors Area

ISSUE: The exhibit team was concerned that if visitors were not attracted to the Actions Wall, they may bypass the whole area (Actions Wall, Behavior Change Computers, Built Environment Panel).

METHOD: A simple counting study was conducted where all visitors (adults and children) approaching this area were observed to see where they *stopped first* (or if they walked by without stopping at any of these three exhibits). Observations were conducted for nine 30 minute periods on different days of the week – four weekday periods (2 hours total) and five weekend periods (2½ hours total). Visitation was light during all of the weekday periods and during two-thirds of the weekend periods (so there aren't enough data to analyze how behavior might change during busy times).

RESULTS:

- o The majority of adults (64%) stopped at the Actions Wall first.
- o Children were somewhat less likely to stop at the Actions Wall (46%), and slightly more likely to go to the Behavior Change Stations first (20% vs. 10%).
- Only 14% of adults walked through without stopping anywhere but children were slightly more likely to pass by this area (26%).

<u>First Stop:</u>	<u>Adults</u> (n=242)	<u>Kids</u> (n=54)
Actions Wall	64%	42%
Behavior Change Computers	10%	20%
Built Environment Panel	11%	11%
Walked by without stopping	14%	26%

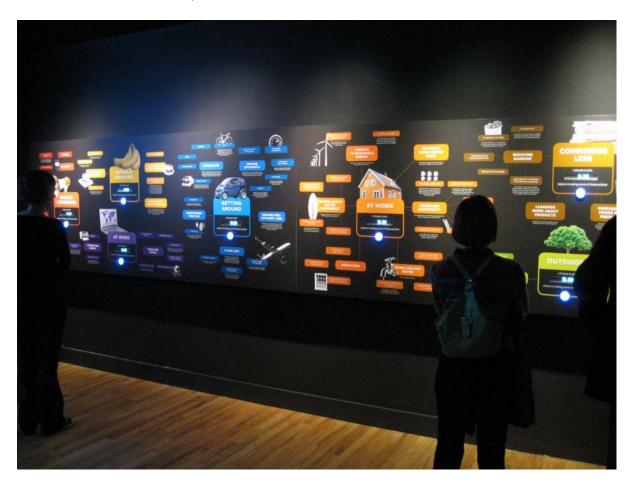
E.3. Actions Wall (mind map)

ISSUE: Actions Wall was selected for an observational study because the exhibit team wondered whether visitors were engaging with the wall or perhaps finding it too overwhelming, i.e., do they look at multiple parts or just one piece? Also, the team was curious to see how visitors responded to a relatively low-tech interactive (e.g., a simple push button activity versus a full computer interactive).

METHOD: The method consisted of observing 54 adult visitors who stopped to look at the wall and recording how much time they spent and where they stopped.

RESULTS:

- o Most adults spent a reasonable amount of time here (over 2 minutes, on average).
- They stopped to look at multiple parts (5 stops on average).
- o Over half (54%) moved along the entire wall before leaving the exhibit.
- o About half of the visitors (or someone in their group) pushed at least one of the buttons (showing commitment to change a behavior or perform an action).
- o A high level of social interaction was observed among visitors in groups (79% talked while at this exhibit).



E.3.a. Sample characteristics of Actions Wall users

OVERVIEW: A total of 54 adult visitors (alone, with other adults, with children) were observed as they stopped at this exhibit. Most of the visitor groups consisted of adults visiting without children. The sample includes adults of all ages and similar proportions of men and women. Most of these observations occurred when the exhibit was not busy, so that visitors' choices of what to do and see were not constrained by other visitors' use of the space.

	(n=54)
Gender:	
men	44%
women	56%
Estimated Age:	
20's	15%
30's	
40's	
50+	
307	2070
Group composition:	
adults-only	80%
family with children	
Group size:	
one	41%
two	
three	
four or more	
Day type:	
weekday	88%
weekend	
Weekene	12/0
Amount of other users:	
light (0-3 users)	80%
medium (4-9 users)	20%
crowded (10+ users)	

E.3.b. What did visitors do at the Actions Wall?

OVERVIEW: People spent over two minutes, on average, looking at this exhibit. About half of the visitors looked at all seven topics along this wall (78% viewed at least 5 topics). About half of these visitors (or someone in the group) pushed at least one button. Most visitor groups (79%) were talking while at this exhibit.

Time s

<u>Time spent</u>		
under 1 minute	20%	
1 minute to under 2 minutes	26%	
2 to under 3 minutes	21%	Median = 2 minutes 18 seconds
3 minutes or more	33%	
Extent of user		
Extent of use: looked at first set of 2 topics only	4%	
left after AT HOME	4%	
left after GETTING AROUND	15%	
left after WORK/EATING	24%	
looked at entire wall (all 7 topics)	54%	
looked at entire wan (an 7 topies)	34 /0	
Number of stops:		
one or two	11%	
three or four	37%	
five or six	26%	Median = 5 stops
seven or more	26%	-
Buttons pushed		
pushed OUTDOORS	26%	54% pushed a button
pushed CONSUMING LESS	32%	Median = 1 button
pushed AT HOME	30%	
pushed GETTING AROUND	18%	
pushed AT WORK	21%	
pushed EATING	22%	
pushed AWARENESS	24%	
P wond 11111 1220	= 1,70	
Who pushed buttons?		
adult	39%	
child	6%	
not recorded	9%	
Social interaction?		
talking among group (of 2+ people)	79%	
no interaction (among 2+ people)	21%	

E.4. Behavior Change Computers

ISSUE: This mini-study examines the visitor experiences with the Behavior Change Computers. Staff questions about usage include duration and extent of use, and whether or not visitors appeared to make the association of the stations to the big screen.

METHOD: Forty-six visitors from separate visitor groups were observed after they approached and stopped at one of the exhibit's three touch screen stations. The observer recorded visitors' characteristics, the amount of time spent at the exhibit and various behaviors: which touch screens they touched, if they appeared to look at the big screen and whether the group talked about this exhibit.

RESULTS:

- O Visitors who stopped at this exhibit typically spent a minute or more at one (or occasionally more than one) of the stations.
- O Visitors were more likely to engage the "light bulbs" and "hybrid cars" stations (those closest to the entrance to this area) than the "trees" station.
- Only about one-third of the visitors using the touch screen computers seemed to notice the big screen.
- o Among groups of two or more visitors, most (69%) were observed talking about the exhibit.



E.4.a. Sample characteristics of **Behavior Change Computer** users

OVERVIEW: The visitors observed at the Behavior Change exhibit reflect some variation in characteristics. Gender was evenly represented, about one third were visiting alone and most were adult groups without children. Although about half of the observations occurred on weekend days, the exhibit was not crowded during the observations.

	(n=48)
Gender:	7 0
men	50%
women	50%
Group composition:	
adults-only	78%
family with children	22%
Group size:	
one	30%
two	46%
three	9%
four or more	15%
Day type:	
weekday	54%
weekend	46%
Amount of other users:	
light (0-3 users)	87%
medium (4-9 users)	13%
crowded (10+ users)	0%

E.4.b. What did visitors do at the Behavior Change Computers?

OVERVIEW: Most of the visitors who stopped at this exhibit spent more than one minute there; slightly less than half of the visitors engaged more than one of the stations. Visitors were most likely to use the "light bulbs" station, slightly less likely to use the "hybrid car" station and much less likely to use the trees station. This is also the order in which visitors would typically encounter these stations in this space.

Although all of the visitors either touched one of the small screens or (in a few cases) watched while someone else touched the screen, only about one-third of the visitors were observed looking up at the big screen. Among groups of two or more visitors, most (69%) were observed in social interaction apparently regarding the exhibit.

Time spent:

under 1 minute	30%		
1 minute to under 3 minutes	50%	Median = 1 minute	28 seconds
3 or more minutes	15%		

Number of touch screens used:

one	57%	Median = 1 stop
two	26%	
three	17%	

Which computers used (among those unoccupied):

mputers used (among those unoccupied):		
light bulbs		
only touched small screen	46%	
also looked at big screen	19%	
did not use	34%	
hybrid car		
only touched small screen	34%	
also looked at big screen	14%	
did not use	45%	
trees		
only touched small screen	27%	
also looked at big screen	9%	
did not use	64%	

Looked at the big screen at any time:

yes	36%
no	64%

Social interaction (among groups of 2+):

talking among group	69%
no interaction	31%