



**AICHE**  
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS

THREE PARK AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NY  
10016-5991  
www.aidhe.org

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Cynthia F. Mascone  
(646) 495-1345  
cynfm@aidhe.org

### SENIOR EDITOR

Joanna Ziemlewski  
(646) 495-1347  
joanz@aidhe.org

### ASSISTANT EDITORS

Gordon Ellis  
(646) 495-1348  
gorde@aidhe.org

### Matt McKeon-Slattery

(646) 495-1349  
mattm@aidhe.org

### CONTRIBUTORS

T. Kevin Swift  
kevin\_swift@  
americanchemistry.com

### PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Karen Simpson  
(646) 495-1346  
kares@aidhe.org

### ART DIRECTOR

Paula Angarita  
(646) 495-1328  
paula@aidhe.org



### AICHE

GENERAL INQUIRIES  
1-800-AICHE  
(1-800-242-4363)

### MEETINGS & EXPOSITIONS

(646) 495-1315

### MEMBER ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

(646) 495-1330

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June C. Wispelwey  
junew@aidhe.org

### GROUP PUBLISHER

Stephen R. Smith  
steps@aidhe.org

### EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Joseph S. Alford\*  
Automation  
Consulting Services

Lornez T. Biegler  
Carnegie Mellon Univ.

Andre Da Costa  
Chevron

David E. Gushee\*  
Congressional Research  
Service (ret.)

Dennis C. Hendershot  
CCPS Consultant

Lorraine A. Huchler  
MarTech Systems

Marc Karell  
Climate Change &  
Environmental Services, LLC

Michael J. Misovich  
Hope College

May Shek  
Shell

Gavin P. Towler  
UOP LLC

Bruce Vaughan  
Cabot Corp.

\* AICHE Fellow

## Climate Change Heats You Up

Many of you are extremely passionate about the issue of climate change, with views that span the entire spectrum — from “we need to act quickly to prevent devastation” to “we shouldn’t ruin our economy trying to solve a nonexistent problem.”

In response to the Nov. 2007 article “Mitigating Global Climate Change Through Power-Generation Technologies” (by Frank Princiotto of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), some accused us of jumping on Al Gore’s bandwagon. One reader said that our efforts are “aiding the push toward limiting CO<sub>2</sub> by limiting or eliminating our usage of energy, the very energy that allows us to pursue the lifestyles we all currently enjoy. I, for one, do not want to pay ever-increasing energy taxes and the resultant increased costs for everything else to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>, which is not a pollutant and not in any way connected to variations in global average temperatures.”

The Feb. 2008 article “Dealing with Climate Change at the Local Level” pointed out that whatever problems may be caused by climate change, now is the time to begin addressing the issues locally, for example through revised building codes and improved infrastructure. That article prompted one member to ask “How dare you publish an article purporting to be scientific when it ignores the facts and the opinion of the great majority of scientists working in the field.”

Many energy-related articles also regularly generate reader response. Even an editorial urging we not put all our energy eggs in the fossil fuel basket drew criticism — maybe because I mentioned both Al Gore and T. Boone Pickens, names that seem to raise some engineers’ hackles.

So we expected many of you to comment about the Critical Issues article in the June issue, “Climate Change — What Does the Research Mean?” And comment you did.

One reader called it “perhaps the most important article I have ever seen in CEP,” and urged us to send it to every Senator and Representative, Energy Secretary Chu and the other cabinet members, the National Science Foundation, and President Obama, because “the present headlong rush to legislate before we know what is really going on will spell disaster for the U.S. and for all of us.”

Other letters and calls criticized us for publishing “that so-called article” by a “known climate change skeptic who comes from the oil and gas industry.”

Climate change is clearly a multifaceted issue, and it would be irresponsible for CEP to report only one side of the picture. In addition to covering cutting-edge technology advances related to climate change and energy, it is also important to explore the societal aspects of chemical engineering. Our Critical Issues and Opinion articles, in particular, are intended to be provocative and stimulate dialogue among our members.

We will continue to facilitate the discussion by publishing as many of your letters as we can. The August issue will feature some related to the June article.

We welcome your opinions and appreciate your passion.

Cynthia F. Mascone  
Editor-in-Chief