



AIChE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Policy Statement

Approved by

AIChE's Board of Directors

March 29, 2019

October 16, 2018, revision of June 15, 2014, policy statement

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AIChE CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY STATEMENT

As a professional society, AIChE must be a source of sound information and analysis for its members, for government policy makers, and for the public. AIChE is also committed to helping its members and stakeholders create and maintain resilient, sustainable processes, products, and facilities.

Scientific analysis finds that non-natural climate change is occurring and has been strongly influenced by human-caused releases of greenhouse gases. Using an open, moderated process in 2017-18, AIChE members were provided an opportunity to critique the current consensus climate science as captured in the US EPA's Endangerment Findings. After listening to all points of view and challenges, assessing the climate science based on documented evidence, their analysis supported the credibility of this science.

Adverse climate change poses threats to all of us, both individually and as a society. These threats fall squarely in the realm of the chemical engineer, who is well-positioned to assess the issues and develop solutions through well-founded engineering and economic approaches.

For its members, AIChE continues to provide a forum as well as professional information and education about new developments and how to respond (1) to government regulations and (2) to the range of potential changes in temperature, precipitation, sea level, and extreme weather events.

Actions: AIChE is providing publications, webinars, meeting programming, and short courses on these topics.

For policy makers: AIChE works to ensure that policy makers have the benefit of chemical engineering expertise. Legal authority has already been developed by governments, nationally and internationally. More actions are being evaluated on national and state levels, involving discussions requiring sound technical input to the regulatory development process.

Actions: AIChE provides independent, well-

informed information about what responses and regulations are technologically feasible.

For the public: AIChE is dedicated to serving society. To that end, the Institute provides relevant information about this and other topics to its members. Individual, informed AIChE members then can better help their neighbors and communities interpret and communicate climate-change reports and assessments. AIChE adds value and serves society best by educating its members, industry, government, and society about chemical engineering principles at the center of the issues.

Actions: AIChE publications and social media provide reports on climate-change topics to its membership. These reports are not meant to advocate policy positions but rather to help AIChE members contribute knowledgeably to public discussions.