



## **NASA/JPL CLIMATE DAY: Middle and High School Students Get the Facts about Global Climate Change**

Annie Richardson, Susan Callery, and Margaret Srinivasan

Caltech - Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Oceanography, Pasadena, United States (margaret.srinivasan@jpl.nasa.gov, 818 354-0368)

In 2007, NASA Headquarters requested that Earth Science outreach teams brainstorm new education and public outreach activities that would focus on the topic of global climate change. At the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), Annie Richardson, outreach lead for the Ocean Surface Topography missions came up with the idea of a “Climate Day”, capitalizing on the popular Earth Day name and events held annually throughout the world. JPL Climate Day would be an education and public outreach event whose objectives are to provide the latest scientific facts about global climate change - including the role the ocean plays in it, the contributions that NASA/JPL satellites and scientists make to the body of knowledge on the topic, and what we as individuals can do to promote global sustainability. The primary goal is that participants get this information in a fun and exciting environment, and walk away feeling empowered and capable of confidently engaging in the global climate debate.

In March 2008, JPL and its partners held the first Climate Day event. 950 students from seven school districts heard from five scientists; visited exhibits, and participated in hands-on-activities. Pleased with the outcome, we organized JPL Climate Day 2010 at the Pasadena Convention Center in Pasadena, California, reaching more than 1700 students, teachers, and members of the general public over two days.

Taking note of this successful model, NASA funded a multi-center, NASA Climate Day proposal in 2010 to expand Climate Day nation-wide.

The NASA Climate Day proposal is a three-pronged project consisting of a cadre of Earth Ambassadors selected from among NASA-affiliated informal educators; a “Climate Day Kit” consisting of climate-related electronic resources available to the Earth Ambassadors; and NASA Climate Day events to be held in Earth Ambassador communities across the United States.

NASA/JPL continues to host the original Climate Day event and in 2012 held its 4th event, at the Pasadena Convention Center in Pasadena, California. Although our goals and objectives remain the same, we continue to improve the event, which now includes student staff and student exhibitors. Our poster will give an overview and highlights of the November 16, 2012 event.