

Climate.now - climate change online learning material for higher education

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Climate change expertise is urgently needed in all fields of the society. However, there has been severe shortcomings in teaching the basics of climate change in many universities and study fields in Finland.

Climate.now (www.climatenow.fi) is a multidisciplinary learning material about basics of climate change published online in Autumn 2016. It is meant for higher education and is available online for anyone to use. Climate.now was done in collaboration with multidisciplinary experts from University of Helsinki, Lappeenranta University of Technology, Metropolia University of Applied Sciences and Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra.

Climate.now material is located at the University of Helsinki MOOC platform (www.mooc.helsinki.fi). Material consists of text, figures, video and assignments. It covers the topic of climate change from different perspectives: from physical background to ecological and societal effects as well as adaptation. In addition to providing the basic knowledge, another equally important goal is to reinforce the student's understanding of climate change as a deep human and societal challenge and to give everyone the means to participate in resolving it. Special emphasis is put on climate change aspects specific to Finland. All material is available both in English as well as in Finnish. Climate.now learning material can be freely used in any universities, or e.g. companies, as a study material for a climate change course.

The Climate.now material includes a detailed plan for a climate change course that can be easily applied by a university teacher when starting a new course. By answering to multiple choice questions, student gets an automatic certificate. To get credit points, student needs to register to one of the university courses organized based on the material. Currently there are courses going on at the University of Helsinki, Lappeenranta University of Technology, Aalto University and Metropolia University of Applied Sciences. Feedback from the courses has been very good.

At the University of Helsinki, new online climate change education projects are planned in near future. In 2018 we are at least working on online education material on Arctic climate change, basics of circular economy as well as leadership for sustainable change with several collaborators