



Progressing science-policy-practice interaction in climate research at Lund University, Sweden towards user need attentive outreach

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The Centre for Environmental and Climate Research (CEC) at Lund University hosts two strategic research areas that deal with climate system modeling and climate impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems. Participation includes natural, social and economic sciences research at Lund University, the University of Gothenburg, Linnaeus University, Chalmers University of Technology, Royal Institute of Technology and the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute. These two strategic research areas engage close to 200 researchers and more than 100 PhD-students. Providing a node for communication, the Centre also hosts a cross-faculty Climate Portal venture, designed to coordinate information and knowledge of climate-related research and to facilitate multidisciplinary communication within the university and to the society.

At CEC, science communication is used as a key and integrated activity in the research exploits. In particular, communication is seen as a means of leveraging the scientific significance of the pursued research. While the communication efforts include traditional information delivery, the need for improved processes to interact with stakeholders and society in a constructive way is recognized.

A starting point is to decode what type of research questions are relevant to the stakeholders, how they prefer communication of research, and how this could be connected to research performed at strong, independent research facilities. The approach taken is to engage selected users in an interaction that focuses both on the what and the how. The what concerns the overlap between what the research can provide and what the users need. The how is about how knowledge can be jointly developed, transferred and shared between the research and its use.

This presentation discusses the Lund University experience and challenges of progressing user-need attentive outreach on climate change research with the particular focus on climate system change, climate impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem services.