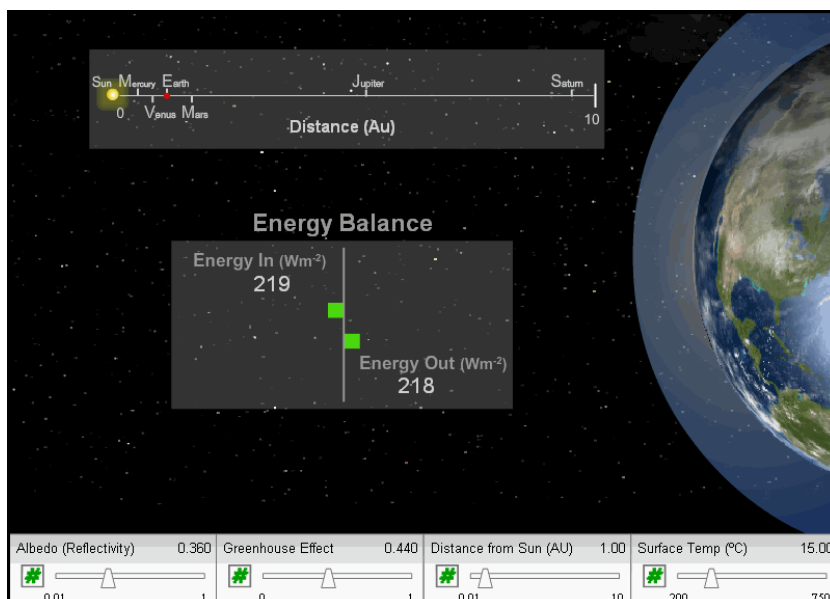


*Free Public Lecture*

# **Chemistry and Our Global Future: Visualizing the Science of Climate Change**



**Dr. Peter Mahaffy,  
The King's University College, Edmonton**

The Earth's atmosphere and oceans have been fundamentally altered since the industrial revolution and particularly so in the past 50 years, often at rates exceeding those in the historical and recent geological record. Understanding and responding to such changes, as well as the provision of food, energy, and potable water stand among the most important challenges facing the world. Education *in* and *through* chemistry has a vital role to play in meeting these challenges, and the International Year of Chemistry provides the opportunity to think about how well we do this. This presentation will introduce new digital learning objects created to visualize atmospheric processes and the science of climate change. These interactive learning objects created with a team of undergraduate student researchers at the King's Centre for Visualization in Science help learners visualize and understand how the tools of chemistry and other disciplines can be used to help address global challenges. We will explore how we can move beyond rhetoric and controversy to an understanding of the best available scientific evidence and more informed decisions about our societal response to this global challenge.

*Peter Mahaffy is known for his deep commitment to helping students, educators, scientists, and the public see the intricate webs that connect chemistry and science to other aspects of life. He is Professor of Chemistry at the King's University College in Edmonton, Alberta and co-director of the King's Centre for Visualization in Science. His research is in the areas of chemistry education, visualization in science, and organic chemistry - much of which is done with undergraduate student collaborators. Mahaffy chairs IUPAC's Committee on Chemistry Education (CCE), is a member of IUPAC's Bureau, and he led the IUPAC team that obtained the UN designation of 2011 as an International Year of Chemistry. Recent awards include a Fellowship of the Chemical Institute of Canada (CIC); the CIC National Award for Chemistry Education; and the 3M National Teaching Fellowship.*

**Wednesday, March 2, 2011**

**7:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Vancouver Island University, Building 356, Room 109

*Sponsors: Mid-Island Science, Technology & Innovations Council (MISTIC), Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council (NSERC), VIUFA Professional Development Fund, Faculty of Science and Technology*

