Understanding the National Climate Assessment
Anheuser-Busch Theatre, Saint Louis Zoo
Tuesday, February 5, 2013  7:30 – 9 p.m.
Admission is free. No reservation needed.

The 2013 National Climate Assessment draft has been released for public review until April 12, 2013 at ncadac.globalchange.gov. This report, produced by more than 240 authors representing federal agencies, academic institutions, private industry and non-profit organizations, concludes that climate change, once considered an issue in the distant future, has moved firmly into the present.

This panel will explain the science behind the report, some implications for our region and what is being done at the national and international level to address this issue.

Modern Climate Science
Donald Wuebbles, Harry E. Preble Professor of Atmospheric Science at the University of Illinois
The planet is warming. Climate model simulations reinforce scientific understanding that observed variations in global average surface temperature over the past century can only be explained through a combination of human and natural factors. The majority of the warming is due to emissions from fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and natural gas.

Current Climate Change Impacts on Agriculture
David Lobell, Assistant Professor in Environmental Earth System Science and Associate Director of the Center on Food Security and the Environment at Stanford University
Models that link yields of the four largest commodity crops to weather indicate that global corn and wheat production declined by 3.8 and 5.5 percent, respectively, relative to what would have occurred without climate trends. For soybeans and rice, winners and losers largely balanced out. Climate trends offset much of the yield increases that arose from technology advances in these crops.

The Social Ecology of Climate Change
Adrián Cerezo, Associate Director of Conservation Education Research, Saint Louis Zoo
Social ecology looks at climate change from two perspectives: first, how are human beliefs and practices related to climate change, and second, how are human communities affected by climate change? This presentation will discuss initiatives in research, policy and education intended to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Presented by the Academy of Science-St. Louis, in partnership with the Saint Louis Zoo. For information on this event and other programs at the Academy of Science-St. Louis, visit academyofsciencesstl.org or call (314) 533-8586.