

OCCR Flash – News from the Oeschger Centre

The Oeschger Centre brings together all relevant activities in the field of climate research at the University of Bern. And it launches novel outreach projects to make the general public and specific target groups benefit from research results.

The OCCR shows its colours in front of the federal parliament building

The Oeschger Centre was part of the Swiss Energy and Climate Summit that took part from 12–14 September 2012 in a huge tent on the Bundesplatz in Bern. On invitation of the canton of Bern we presented two outreach projects in the exhibition part of the event that brought together representatives from business, politics and research. *The big climate poker* is an interactive representation of the climate system and its forcing factors by the way of sensor equipped giant poker dices. *Emission Impossible* is an educational tool conceived for the training of farmers (see below).

Evaluation report documents an impressive growth

In a 100 pages strong report for the attention of the board of directors of the University of Bern, the Oeschger Centre presents a wealth of information on its activities since it was founded in 2007. Most notably a solid network and strong structural foundations across the relevant disciplines in climate research were developed. The OCCR now counts 26 research groups hosted in 11 institutes or departments of four faculties of the University of Bern. Approximately 30 MSc students (Climate Sciences), 35 PhD students (Climate Sciences), 50 postdocs, 30 senior researchers, 25 faculty members and 30 technical/administrative staff are currently affiliated with the Oeschger Centre. Seven structurally relevant new professorships were established since 2007. The OCCR is highly productive with more than 400 ISI-listed publications since its foundation. This research work is internationally highly recognized and was cited approximately 4000 times.

Emission Impossible – a computer game for young farmers

Agriculture is responsible for a considerable fraction of the greenhouse gas emissions in Switzerland. Research conducted by the Oeschger Centre's Air Pollution/Climate Research Group shows that changing management practices at



The players of *Emission Impossible* can discover the consequences of different management options in crop and livestock production for the greenhouse gas balance of their farm. This experience will enhance understanding of the role of agriculture in mitigating climate change.

farm level could substantially contribute to reducing emissions. To foster this change at an early stage in farmers' careers the Oeschger Centre has developed a computer game to be used in agricultural schools. It is called *Emission Impossible* and was realized in co-operation with the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) and the Bernese training centre for farmers Inforama. The game can be downloaded for free at www.emission-impossible.ch

Climate and beyond – a conference on knowledge production

Between 23 and 25 January 2013 a conference of historians, co-organized by the OCCR, will take place in Bern. Its theme is *Knowledge production about planet earth and the global environment as indicators of social change*. The conference brings together historians of the earth sciences and environmental historians. It aims to explore the social, cultural and political changes induced by earth scientists and the knowledge and institutions they have created over the last two centuries.

For details and registration see www.oeschger.unibe.ch/events/conferences

For an overview of OCCR activities and events see www.oeschger.unibe.ch

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