



Announcing the AAPG Climate Statement

May 2020 |

In July 2019, when the current AAPG Executive Committee took office, they inherited one piece of outstanding business: review the AAPG Climate Statement that had been approved by the previous EC, but also tabled for approval by the incoming EC.

Over the last seven months, and long before the two black swan events that are wreaking havoc on our industry and our Association, the EC engaged many of the Association's stakeholders, including the divisions, the Advisory Council, the Corporate Advisory Board and, by way of a survey, our members.

With their feedback and comments the EC decided that:

1. AAPG should have a statement on climate change.
2. That statement needs to reflect the Association's mission and the values of our members – a considerable challenge given the highly political nature of the climate change debate.

Thus, the EC believes this statement, approved unanimously by the current EC, not only accomplishes those two objectives, but most closely reflects the considerable feedback we have received from our members and leadership over the past year.

The American Association of Petroleum Geologists has a long history as a proactive organization focused on advancing the science of geology, especially as it relates to petroleum, natural gas, other subsurface fluids and mineral resources. AAPG continues to promote and encourage its members to employ their surface and subsurface geologic skills and knowledge to exploring for, finding and producing these materials in an efficient, economic and environmentally sustainable manner while minimizing their impact on the world's climate. AAPG believes in the principles of conservation, efficiency and sustainability regarding the use of all energy resources. In support of these objectives, the Energy Mineral Division was created in 1977 as an international forum for energy sources other than conventional oil and gas, and the Division of Environmental Geosciences in 1992 to promote environmental stewardship within the industry and to support and encourage research into the effects of petroleum\energy minerals exploration and production on the environment.

Our members share the concerns of the public, non-governmental organizations and governments about environmental issues, including climate change and energy sustainability. As earth scientists our members have a unique perspective and understanding of climate change throughout the geologic history of Earth and how climate has varied through time. The current world population of 7.8 billion people puts an

enormous strain on the Earth's resources that requires, in addition to hydrocarbon resources, the economic development of alternative and renewable energy sources. The AAPG encourages its members, through their own research, to continue to develop their own understanding of climate science and policies that are outside the core competencies of the organization and to work on improving the human condition while reducing energy's environmental impacts.

The AAPG accepts the immense challenges of the energy transition and will continue to support the important role that AAPG scientists play in improving the human condition, while minimizing environmental impacts of all forms of energy.

- We understand the growing need for energy and petrochemical feed stocks throughout the world, and the fact that renewable energy and emerging technologies will not meet these needs over the next several decades.
- We accept the immense challenges of both meeting the current and near-term energy demands as well as future energy needs and will continue to support the role AAPG members play in delivering responsible and sustainable energy to the world.
- We look to enhance the future by supporting AAPG members as they apply their surface and subsurface geological skills and their talents in areas such as carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS), geothermal energy development and critical minerals extraction, and to use creativity and innovation in the responsible and sustainable development of hydrocarbons, with the goal of reducing humanity's carbon footprint.

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AAPG should abide by its name with emphasis on PETROLEUM

As geologist, we understand that climate changes. Its happened for millennia without human influence. There is not any over whelming evidence that the petroleum, coal or humans are causing any substantial increase in earthly temperature. Ice core records show to the contrary of increased temperatures and "green house" gases. Lets please focus on new technologies and ideas for greater petroleum discoveries and extraction, field studies and analogies to help direct and influence ideas of places to look for new oil and continuing to promote the oil industry as the future of cheap, affordable and reliable energy needed to improve the human condition. Ernie Grodi

5/5/2020 10:20:57 AM **Ernest Grodi**

AAPG - the ONLY science organisation in the world to not accept the science of climate change

I am disheartened to see that AAPG has published a weak climate change statement. AAPG is first and foremost supposed to be a scientific organisation, and yet remains the only science organisation to ignore the overwhelming peer reviewed science on climate change. The science underlying human impacts on climate change is not political - it is basic physics known for over 100 years. CO₂, methane and other gases are known greenhouse gases, meaning they reduce the amount of outgoing radiation from exiting the atmosphere. We have direct physical measurements from both ground and satellite instruments directly showing that progressively less radiative energy is exiting our atmosphere over time, and that the change over time is only in wavelengths that are the direct fingerprint of increased CO₂, methane and other greenhouse gases human activity is causing to be accumulated in the atmosphere (e.g Harries et al 2001). The amount of energy retained by increased greenhouse effect is sufficient to cause all recent warming (Feldman et al, 2015). Hundreds and hundreds of studies have shown there are no other causes for the current warming known to science. The geological record tells us that greenhouse gases are one driver of climate and past changes in these gases has caused climatic events. ALL branches of science have reached an evidence backed conclusion on climate, including all other geological societies. The radiative absorbtion properties of CO₂ are not political - they are just physics. AAPG should be front and centre in trying to engage and lead efforts on climate change. But, a scientific society cannot do that if it buries it's head in the sand and ignores the science learned from literally >100 thousand peer reviewed studies on the

topic. The published climate statement is not leadership, it is simply disappointingly hollow. It is not what the society needs to help stop the loss of members and lack of engagement with the people that are the industry's future.

5/3/2020 10:14:25 PM Mark Tingay

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Petroleum Geologists Paving the Way for the Sustainable Energy Future

May 2020 | Francois Marechal

Since the beginning of the petroleum industry, geoscientists have developed a breadth of multi-disciplinary expertise and innovation the likes of which are hard to find in other industries. As humanity strives to better comprehend both positive and detrimental anthropogenic impact on the planet, geologists and other geoscientist have a skill set uniquely suited to help find solutions for sustainable energy needs that are socially responsible and economically feasible. With an ever-growing world population, this energy need will only grow as our numbers do. Beyond energy, geologists have a crucial role to play in addressing access to potable water, human waste disposal and developing better understanding of global heat flows both atmospheric, subterranean and sub oceanic to name a few.

At this current time, the world around us is changing at a very rapid pace. Some changes are beneficial, but others like the current coronavirus outbreak are reaping havoc on the planet and its inhabitants. Due to increase in the human population, there has also been increased pressure on our natural resources.

Environmental geoscience is no longer a discipline on the outskirts of the scientific community. Geologists

are becoming critically important professionals, helping to expand knowledge of natural resources including groundwater management, responsible minerals extraction, improvements in crude oil and natural gas development, socially responsible waste disposal and carbon capture and sequestration schemes. What environmental geoscientists succeed in deciphering will have a direct impact in assuring longevity of habitable space conducive to the survival of humanity.

The goal of the Environmental Geosciences Journal is to leverage the profession's understanding of geological, geochemical, geophysical and hydrogeological principles and methodologies to assist in the quest for solutions to environmental problems and to bring you the latest research in these areas. You can help the Division of Environmental Geosciences reach the broader stakeholder community by submitting your manuscripts to the Environmental Geosciences Journal at <https://aapg.to/egsubmit>.

The DEG looks forward to working with other geoscience affiliates interested in advancing our comprehension of what will be needed to provide a bright future for generations to come.

(Olga Popova and Donald Clarke contributed to the writing of this article.)

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Francois Marechal

Francois Marechal, Professional Petroleum Geologist and Canada Region President, 2013-17

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