

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **The American Geographical Society Endorses IPCC “SR15” Global Warming Report**

Description: *The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC, has released the [Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius \(SR15\)](#). The IPCC report was requested by international governments following the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015, where countries agreed to hold the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 C above pre-industrial levels, and pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5 C. The SR15 report reviews the efforts required to limit global warming to 1.5 C, as well as the benefits to doing so, when compared to a rise of 2 C or more. The report also examines the interaction of climate change and responses to it with sustainable development. The American Geographical Society, which has undertaken a multi-disciplinary look at both climate change and sustainable development in the Geography 2050 symposium series, has announced that it is endorsing the CFR report.*

[New York City, NY] – [December 4, 2018] – The American Geographical Society (AGS) announced today that it is endorsing the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius, recently issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The report was highlighted in remarks delivered by Diana Liverman, a University of Arizona Regents’ Professor in the School of Geography and Development speaking during the panel on “Environmental Consequences of Energy Supply and Demand” at the [2018 Geography 2050 symposium](#) in New York City, November 15-16.

The IPCC report details the significantly different lower impacts if average warming can be held to 1.5 degrees Celsius, as compared to an increase of 2.0 degrees Celsius. In her remarks at Geography 2050, Dr. Liverman noted that “every bit of warming matters” as she contrasted the impact of a 1.5 C increase to a 2.0 C on biodiversity, agriculture, ecosystems, health and more. Dr. Liverman also cautioned that human activities have already led to an increase of global temperature of 1.0 C, and that immediate emissions reductions are needed as well as efforts to sequester carbon in forests or through technology (so-called negative emissions) to hold temperature rise to less than 1.5 C.

The IPCC report was developed to inform the UNFCCC climate conference (COP24) this December in Katowice, Poland. The American Geographical Society is making this endorsement to second the work of Dr. Liverman and her many colleagues, and to urge governments and others to take the steps necessary to reduce global warming and its impact on our future planet.

Commenting on the AGC endorsement, Dr. Liverman noted, “Geographers and geographic perspectives have made important contributions to our understanding of climate and its impacts

and offer useful solutions for decarbonizing our energy system and adapting to warming. About 20% of the IPCC 1.5C authors work in or are trained as geographers; so it is fitting that AGS would endorse the report.”

When asked about the endorsement, AGS Councilor and Chair of the AGS endorsement committee, Eddie Pickle, said, “The American Geographical Society organized the Geography 2050 symposium on the topic of “Powering Our Future Planet,” to facilitate discussion of how the production, transmission and consumption of energy will influence our planet -- in its geopolitics, environmental quality, food production, and more. The IPCC’s SR15 report provides critical insights into how action on energy technology and policy -- now -- can abate global temperature increase, and shows the clear benefits of doing so.” Mr. Pickle continued, “We strongly endorse the IPCC’s report to U.S. and international policymakers as a guide to key actions required to mitigate the impact of global warming on the ecosystem of our future planet.”

The full report from the IPCC can [be found at this link](#), and a concise [Summary for Policy Makers](#) is also available.

Established in 1851, the American Geographical Society (AGS) is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States. It is recognized world-wide as a pioneer in geographical research and education in Geography for over 165 years. The mission of the American Geographical Society is to advance and promote geography in business, government, science, and education. Our goal is to enhance the nation’s geographic literacy so as to engender sound public policy, national security, and human well-being worldwide. AGS seeks to engage the American public, from its youngest to its oldest citizens, with new and amazing ways to understand and characterize our changing world. The Society maintains its headquarters in Brooklyn Heights, New York.

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