What Really Needs to be Done to Mitigate Human Caused Climate Change?

Peter Boyer, Climate Tasmania

Major conclusions:

1. Human-induced climate change is an unprecedented threat to civil society and life as we know it.

2. It challenges us both collectively and personally to change the technologies we use and the way we behave.

3. Counter to our instinct to respond to immediate, obvious threats, it requires imaginative, rational, counter-intuitive thinking.

4. In the face of strong negative campaigns, government institutions have so far proven incapable of meeting such a challenge.

5. Direct physical action will fail without paradigm shifts, incorporating political and institutional reform across the globe.
Today's warming compared to last big temperature rise, during Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM), 56 million years ago.
Today’s warming compared to last big temperature rise, during Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM), 56 million years ago

**PETM:** Slow but steady emissions (up to 1.7 billion tonnes of carbon a year) resulted in a gradual heating

*SOURCE: Scientific American, July 2011, page 59*
Today’s warming compared to last big temperature rise, during Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM), 56 million years ago

**Modern:** Fueled by high emission rates (up to 25 billion tonnes of carbon a year) global temperature is rising quickly and will level off only when emissions cease

**PETM:** Slow but steady emissions (up to 1.7 billion tonnes of carbon a year) resulted in a gradual heating

*SOURCE: Scientific American, July 2011, page 59*