

Bolin Centre Climate Festival 2017

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What are climate changes and what can we do about them? That is the theme of this year's Climate Festival arranged by the Bolin Centre for Climate Research in Stockholm, Sweden on 15-18 May 2017. Here, school children will get a chance to take part in hands-on activities based on research conducted at the Bolin Centre, with emphasis on what their own contribution can be to reduce CO₂ emissions to the atmosphere. Surveys in Sweden and Denmark show that ≥80% of the school children worry about climate change. Therefore, the Climate Festival wants to focus on the positive side of what daily-day actions and changes in behaviour can do for the climate.

Other activities during that week include a series of popular science talks to high school students, teachers and the general public, and exhibitions by organisations working on climate-related topics. In addition, the Bert Bolin prize winner of 2016, Dr. Thomas Cronin from the USGS will give a public talk sharing his knowledge on international climate research based on his 40-year long career as a researcher and once being the scientific advisor to President Bill Clinton.

The Bolin Centre Climate Festival 2017 is a collaboration project between different departments and institutions at Stockholm University and "Vetenskapens Hus" (Science for School). It is a continuation of a successful series of annual festivals called "Bolin Days for Youngsters", but this year with focus on higher-grade school children and a significantly expanded programme. The Bolin Centre itself is a consortium with three partners; Stockholm University, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, and the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI). It was founded in 2006 in honour of Swedish Climate researcher Professor Bert Bolin (1925-2007). Besides being a common ground for approximately 300 researchers working on climate change, equally important tasks are education of younger generations and sharing knowledge with the general public. We are happy to share our knowledge gained from the Climate Festival and other educational activities at the Bolin Centre and discuss best practices for public outreach.