RealClimate.org - an attempt to provide the public with state-of-the-art knowledge

R.E. Benestad

The Norwegian Meteorological Institute

RealClimate.org is an Internet web log - also known as 'blog' - that provides commentaries on climate science by 12 working climate scientists from different countries written for the interested public and journalists. The vision of RealClimate is to provide the readers with objective and critical information related to climate science in a timely manner. Much focus is on developing stories and one important function is to provide the context sometimes missing in mainstream media cover. The discussion is restricted to scientific topics and will not get involved in any political or economic implications of the science.

Since the start up of the RealClimate in December 2004, there have been more than 1.1 million visitors, and the blog now has a wide readership. Another indication of high impact is that papers around the world have cited RealClimate. It acts as a resource for both journalists and scholars, providing colleagues with discussions surrounding new climate-related news stories. Furthermore, the site provides a forum for lively discussions and debate, giving the readers the opportunity to interact and post comments or questions to the published articles.