



California State University
Northridge



The Department of Geological Sciences Presents:

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**The role of climate change education on
individual lifetime carbon emissions**

Tuesday, March 8th, at 12:30 p.m. via **ZOOM**

Please call (818) 677-3541 or email geology@csun.edu if you have any questions

Abstract:

When people think about solutions to the climate crisis, they usually think of electric vehicles and solar panels. But what role does education play as a climate solution? We taught an intensive 1-year course on climate change and then tracked students five years after they graduated. A majority of course graduates reported pro-environmental decisions (i.e., type of car to buy, food choices) that they attributed at least in part to experiences gained in the course. Furthermore, our carbon footprint analysis suggests that for the average course graduate, these decisions reduced their individual carbon emissions by 2.86 tons of CO₂ per year. If similar education programs were applied at scale, the potential reductions in carbon emissions would be of similar magnitude to other large-scale mitigation strategies, such as rooftop solar or electric vehicles