Environment & Society Portal

Multimedia Library Collection: Environmental Values (journal)

"Why Worry About Climate Change? A Research Agenda"

Tol, Richard S. J.

Tol, Richard S. J. "Why Worry About Climate Change? A Research Agenda." *Environmental Values* 17, no. 4 (2008): 437–70. doi:10.3197/096327108X368485 .

Estimates of the marginal damage costs of carbon dioxide emissions suggest that, although climate change is a problem and some emission reduction is justified, very stringent abatement does not pass the cost-benefit test. However, current estimates of the economic impact of climate change are incomplete. Some of the missing impacts are likely to be positive and others negative, but overall the uncertainty seems to concentrate on the downside risks and current estimates of the damage costs may have a negative bias. The research effort on the economic impacts of climate change is minute and lacks diversity. This field of study should be strengthened, with a particular focus on the quantification of uncertainties; estimating missing impacts, estimating impacts in developing countries; interactions between impacts and higher-order effects; the valuation of biodiversity loss; the implications of extreme climate scenarios and violent conflict; and climate change in the very long term. I discuss these particular gaps in research, and speculate on possible sign and size of the impacts of climate change.
— Text from The White Horse Press website

All rights reserved. © 2008 The White Horse Press

Download:
PDF: https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/ev_17no.4_tol_richard_s.j.pdf

Related links:

- Article on the official website
  http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/EV/EV1724.html
- The White Horse Press
  http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/

Websites linked in this text:

- http://dx.doi.org/10.3197/096327108X368485
- http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/EV/EV1724.html

Environmental Values (journal) Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
"Why Worry About Climate Change? A Research Agenda"
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/6047
Print date: 05 November 2026 05:47:50