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**Abstract:** Beliefs Regarding Climate Change Causes and Energy-related Mitigation

Mitigating climate change requires both public support for solutions and participation in those solutions. However, a number of U.S. and European studies over the past 20 years have shown poor understanding of climate change causes and effective mitigation strategies. This poster reports on a study of public understanding of climate change causes, potential impacts, concern about climate change, and their linkages to energy-related solutions, such as energy conservation and advanced biofuels. We find that there continue to be significant gaps in understanding as were found by Kempton et al. (1995) in the early 1990's and that these gaps affect support for effective mitigation. We suggest strategies for improving understanding and communicating with the public about this pressing problem.

**Bio:** Kathy Halvorsen is a natural resource sociologist who specializes in forest, advanced biofuels, climate change, and water quality policy making. She hold a joint appointment in the faculties of the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science and the Department of Social Sciences at Michigan Technological University (MTU). At MTU she is an active member of the Wood to Wheels research team studying all aspects of cellulosic ethanol development from woody biomass. She is also Director of the Graduate Program in Environmental Policy and a founder of the Center for Water and Society.