



Communicating climate risk: a handbook is available here: <https://bit.ly/riskcommshandbook>

It's undeniable that climate action is urgently needed. The risks of climate change are well evidenced. And yet somehow it can seem as though scientists' warnings are falling on deaf ears. So what can researchers do about it?

One suggestion is to optimise the way scientists and policymakers communicate. For COP26, the UCL Climate Action Unit produced a practical handbook which does just that. In it, they share tips for how scientists can help decision-makers to 'get' the issue. These tips are drawn from the team's experiences working at the interface of science & policy.

'Communicating climate risk: a handbook' explains insights from psychology and neuroscience on how our brains engage with the idea of climate risk. It highlights journalism hacks for writing about risk clearly. Usefully, it also offers a set of useful questions to help academics ascertain what policymakers need from climate risk research.

The handbook is a quick-to-read, concise manual for anyone - from novice to expert - looking to improve the way scientific research informs policy decision-making.

About the authors

Freya Roberts is a project manager at the UCL Climate Action Unit who previously worked as a climate journalist. Dr Kris De Meyer is the Director of the Climate Action Unit and is a neuroscientist and science communicator. Dr Lucy Hubble-Rose is an expert facilitator and communications specialist.

The UCL Climate Action Unit works to change how scientists, policymakers, businesses, media, civil society organisations and citizens engage with each other about climate change. Its approach is underpinned by a systems-based understanding of why organisations and individuals are not acting at the scale and pace needed - and how this can be resolved.

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Related outputs

This handbook was released alongside [Communicating climate risk: a toolkit](#): an in-depth explainer from the Analysis under Uncertainty for Decision-makers network (AU4DM) which covers:

- the relationship between uncertainty and risk
- the use of photography and other visuals in climate risk communication
- strengths and limitations of the stakeholder engagement paradigm of participatory climate action
- communication challenges associated with tipping points

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