

Michael Benjamin

I am a science teacher at Roger Bacon High School in Cincinnati, OH. I've been teaching AP Chemistry, Chemistry I, Physics, and Global Science at different times over the past four years and will be teaching a new Materials Science class this year.

My PLC Group site is located here: <https://sites.google.com/site/plcforclimatechange/home>

Reflections

10-12-10: I'm a little embarrassed to say that some of the biggest problems I've had so far is trying to figure out the technology involved with each activity. Even in trying to set up this reflection page, google did not give me any "buttons" at the top in order to do anything. After 15 minutes of trying to find those buttons, I gave up and tried to work on some of the other materials (setting up a registration form for my own group, etc.). Low and behold, when I came back to the Leader's Site, buttons were now available. Is there something I'm missing?

I think this meeting was more helpful than the first one in determining what the next steps need to be, and I think that some of the forms that have already been developed by others are a good start to guide the rest of us who were not as sure. In regards to resources, there is a lot out there. From my own experience, I've attended climate change workshops at the University of Wisconsin and the UMass-Amherst. Both were good, but very different. Every person in each PLC may have different needs, so limiting them may not be a good idea. I do like the idea of finding a rating system (stars or whatever may work best) to rate resources. By the way, if anyone is interested, the University of Wisconsin workshop had significant work with the computer modeling of climate change using EdGCM (http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~galen/edu_teacher.html) and showcasing a lot of applets, such as the carbon cycle/budget (<http://carboncycle.aos.wisc.edu/carbon-budget-tool/>). The UMass Program had several hands-on activities for both middle school and high school classrooms (<http://umassk12.net/ipy/materials/2010Summer/>), but it's best to experience the activities first-hand to understand them. This may be one way to approach monthly meetings in my group—demonstrate highlighted resources to show how they can be used, if participants may be interested.