

**NEWS RELEASE**

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The fourth annual Door County Climate Change Forum, **Addressing Climate Change: What’s Happening, Who’s Leading, What to Say**, will be Saturday, May 20, from 9 am to 2 pm at Stone Harbor Resort, 107 N. 1st Ave., Sturgeon Bay. Registration materials are online at <https://climatechangedoorcounty.com/4th-annual-forum>/

**Dr. Steve Vavrus** will describe recent climate changes globally and locally and what we can expect in the future. He will focus on the relationship of climate change to more frequent extreme weather events and the potential adverse consequences of such events on human health. For our region, “warmer and wetter” is the shorthand forecast, with important changes in extreme weather events, lake ice cover, and lake-effect snowfall. Vavrus is a senior scientist in the Nelson Institute Center for Climatic Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He uses computer climate models to understand how climate is changing across the Earth, including the Great Lakes region. He was an invited speaker at last year’s United Nations Conference of the Parties Climate Change Summit in Morocco.

**Dr. Jeffrey Thompson, MD**, will discuss how health care organizations, by addressing climate change aggressively, can improve patient health, lower operating and care costs and support the local economy. He will explain how Gundersen Health System, over the last nine years, met its goal of being 100% powered by renewables from local sources. Under Thompson’s leadership, Gundersen has dropped its greenhouse gas emissions by 90% and become a national model of sustainability. Thompson is a pediatric intensivist and neonatologist, executive advisor and chief executive officer emeritus at Gundersen. He has led Gundersen’s nationally-recognized initiatives for patient care, quality improvement and sustainability. He presented the stunning results of Gundersen’s climate change initiatives at the Paris climate talks, the World Health Organization in Bonn, Germany, as well as in Oxford, England, and Beijing, China. He was honored by the White House as a 2013 Champion for Change for the Environment.

Massive, hard-to-detect processes such as climate disruption present real challenges for communicators. **Dr. Sharon Dunwoody** will describe target audiences and offer strategies to help advocates move hearts and minds and rebuild a bipartisan consensus on the need to act. Dunwoody has studied the construction and use of science messages for more than 30 years at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she is Evjue-Bascom Professor Emerita of Journalism and Mass Communication. She has worked with a variety of audiences, including scientists, to improve communication and engagement strategies. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and former president of both the Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Tia Nelson, long-time Wisconsin environmental leader, will lead a conversation among the speakers, including questions from the audience, to conclude the day.

The doors will open at 8 am for registration and snacks. Environmental organizations will have booths with resources for attendees. The forum will include a local foods lunch. The registration fee is $25, to help defray lunch and facility expenses.

The forum is presented by the Climate Change Coalition of Door County. Brico Fund, Outrider Foundation, DoorCountyDailyNews.com, Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Door County and Virge Temme Architecture are sponsors. The forum seeks to increase awareness of climate change impacts in Door County and to foster discussion among community leaders and others about cooperative action to address those impacts.