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OPINION

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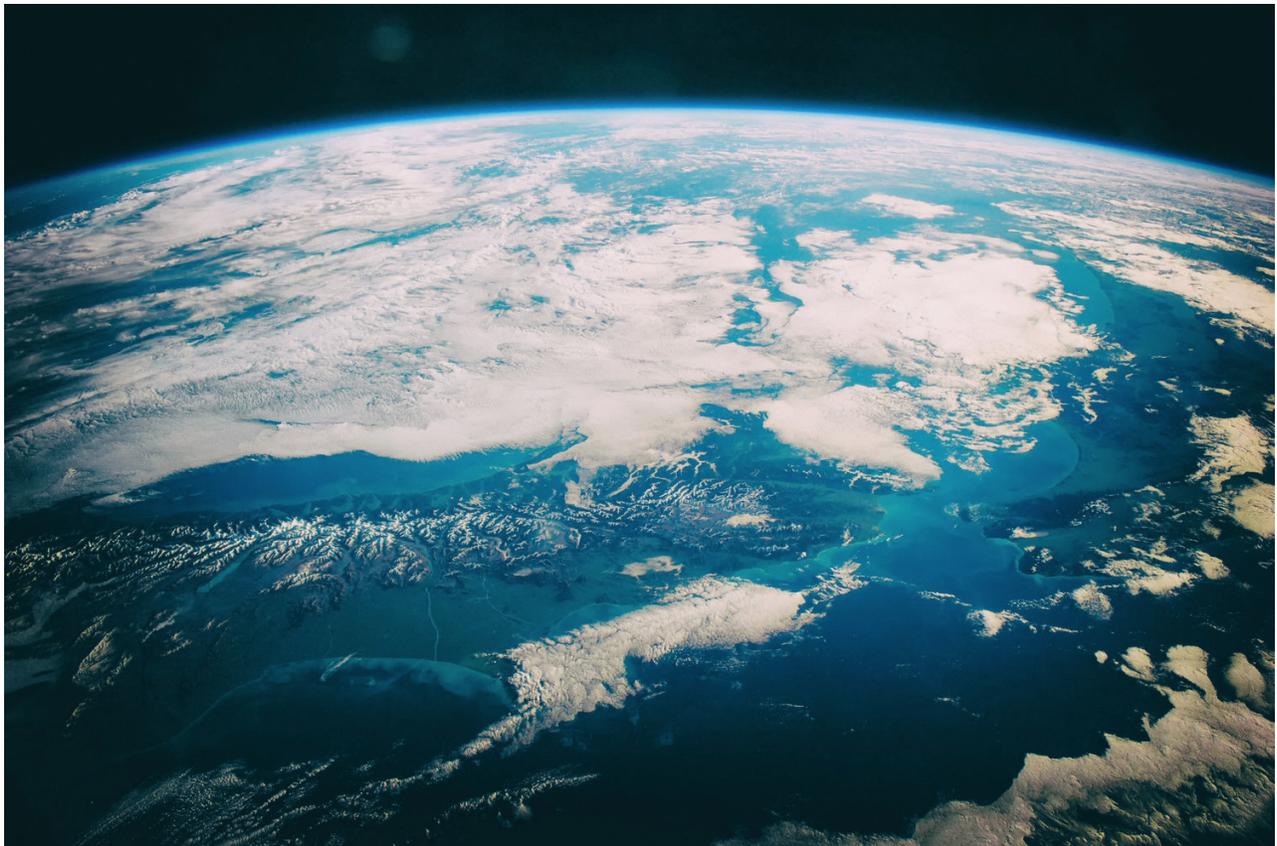
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'Riding the Blue Marble Together'

Five-part symposium to detail effects of climate change



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What does it look like as snow, ice, hurricanes, wildfire and drought move across Earth?

A free five-part symposium called "Riding the Blue Marble Together" will give people a vivid view of Earth as its conditions change over time, using satellite imagery and data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The five parts will be streamed once a week through March in two sessions - at 1:30 p.m. at the town of Taos Public Library and 5:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Taos.

The symposium is a collaboration between the University of New Mexico-Taos STEM Department, the nonprofit Renewable Taos, town of Taos library and First Presbyterian Church.

"We need to think globally before we act locally," said Dave Wasserman, a retired minister and one of the event's organizers. "The purpose of this seminar is to help our community see the big picture of our climate's crisis and, for those who wish, to self-organize around several conversation/action groups."

The presentation uses the University of New Mexico's new resource, Science on a Sphere Explorer, a data visualization resource developed by NOAA. Information collected by satellites and ocean buoys is translated into images of Earth.

The first presentation, "Rising Temperatures" (March 3), presented by Wasserman, focuses on a warming planet and carbon dioxide emissions.

The second presentation, "Extreme Weather" (March 10), to be given by Dr. Katie Bryant, who works for UNM-Taos and is the director of the Upward Bound Program, examines both ocean-based and land-based weather events.

The third presentation, "Terra Firma - the Land" (March 17), presented by David Kingsley of Renewable Taos, will address the impact of rising temperatures as it relates to earthquakes, forestry, fires and agriculture.

The fourth presentation "Our Precious Water" (March 24), given by Joe Zupan, executive director of Amigos Bravos, will address the global picture of the Blue Marble's water where less than one percent of Earth's freshwater is easily retrievable.

The final presentation "The Human Era" (March 31), presented by Kristina Ortez, executive director of the Taos Land Trust, will address the human impact on Earth's natural systems and what we can be doing to better care for the only planetary home we have.

"I am fairly confident that the seminar will offer everyone who attends a chance to think globally using the unique SOSx datasets," David Kingsley, another event organizer, commented. "And, acting locally, participants will be offered the opportunity to think together about what this means for Taos."

The one-hour presentations will be held each Tuesday in March, at 1:30 p.m. in the community room at the town library, 402 Camino de la Placita, and again at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at the Presbyterian Church, 215 Paseo del Pueblo Norte.

No registration is required and each presentation is open to the public.

- Report submitted by Renewable Taos