

Dr. James Hansen heads the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York City, a division of Goddard Space Flight Center's (Greenbelt, MD), Sciences and Exploration Directorate, and he is Adjunct Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University's Earth Institute. He was trained in physics and astronomy in the space science program of Dr. James Van Allen at the University of Iowa. His early research on the properties of clouds of Venus led to their identification as sulfuric acid. Since the late 1970s, he has worked on studies and computer simulations of the Earth's climate, for the purpose of understanding the human impact on global climate. Dr. Hansen is best known for his testimony on climate change to congressional committees in the 1980s that helped raise broad awareness of the global warming issue. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1995 and, in 2001, received the Heinz Award for environment and the American Geophysical Union's Roger Revelle Medal. Dr. Hansen received the World Wildlife Federation's Conservation Medal from the Duke of Edinburgh and was designated by Time Magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in 2006. In 2007 Dr. Hansen received the Leo Szilard Award of the American Physical Society for outstanding promotion and use of physics for the benefit of society, the Haagen-Smit Clean Air Award, and he was a Laureate of the Dan David Prize in the field 'Quest for Energy'.