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Learning Mathematics in the Context of Environmental Issues.

Faculty from the Mathematics Department and the Environmental Science Department co-teach a course for the Honors College called “Mathematics and the Environment”. The purpose of the course is to teach mathematics in the context of addressing real-world environmental problems. Students use the mathematics that they learn to construct models of global climate change at the local level, using data from Connecticut and the New England region. Project topics include river flow, temperature change, precipitation levels and sea level change. In this presentation, we will give an overview of the structure and content of the course, a description of some of the student projects and their results, and samples of student feedback. (Received September 22, 2011)