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# Ecolibrium



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## Act now, or else

A scientist best known for his warning that CFCs were hurting the ozone layer says time is quickly running out to act on climate change.



Harvard's James Anderson.

Harvard University professor of atmospheric chemistry James Anderson says the level of carbon now in the atmosphere hasn't been seen in 12 million years. According to Anderson this pollution is pushing the climate back to its state in the Eocene Epoch, more than 33 million years ago. In that epoch there was no ice on either pole.

"We have exquisite information about what that state is, because we have a paleo record going back millions of years, when the Earth had no ice at either pole," says Anderson, who is best known for establishing that chlorofluorocarbons were damaging the ozone layer. "There was almost no temperature difference between the equator and the pole.

"The ocean was running almost 10°C warmer all the way to the bottom than it is today. And the amount of

water vapour in the atmosphere would have meant that storm systems would be violent in the extreme, because water vapour, which is an exponential function of water temperature, is the gasoline that fuels the frequency and intensity of storm systems."

It's not possible for the environment to recover simply by reducing carbon emissions, Anderson says.

Rather, an epic global mobilisation of resources is required to halt carbon pollution and remove it from the atmosphere, and to reflect sunlight away from the Earth's poles.

The timeline for this initiative? Within the next five years.

"The chance that there will be any permanent ice left in the Arctic after 2022," says Anderson, "is essentially zero." ■

## Time to shine for the best of the best

The 2019 AIRAH Awards Finalists have been named.

After considerable deliberation from the judging panel, the finalists of the 2019 AIRAH Awards have been selected.

The high standard of nominations presented the judges with the difficult task of selecting the best of the best – the finalists – for the AIRAH Awards 2019.

"The projects and individuals selected as finalists for the AIRAH Awards in 2019 continued the very high standard associated with HVAC&R's most prestigious awards," says AIRAH CEO

Tony Gleeson, M.AIRAH. "They've set a high bar for excellence, leadership, and performance in our industry."

Winners of the AIRAH Awards 2019 will be announced at a presentation dinner held at Doltone House in Sydney on Thursday, November 14.

For a full list of finalists, read the story on p.18 of this issue, or check out the Awards spread that begins on p.56.

More information is available at [www.airah.org.au/awards](http://www.airah.org.au/awards) ■

## Up close



Melanie Finch, Affil.AIRAH, is a project engineer in the Sydney office of NDY a Tetra Tech company. She's also a finalist in the Future Leaders category of the 2019 AIRAH Awards.

### Responsibilities

My day-to-day is mostly comprised of leading medium-sized multi-disciplinary services projects, as well as delivering mechanical designs. I am also the second-in-charge of the existing buildings market sector.

### Specialty

I try to get across as many sectors as possible but have found myself specialising in the commercial sector, with a strong emphasis on existing building repositioning and new build feasibilities.

### Passions

I am most excited when I am able to surround myself with interesting and accomplished people. It's a brilliant way to learn quickly and widen my perspective, and I like to think that in turn I will become more interesting and accomplished!

### Challenges

The most challenging aspect for me is prioritising where I should focus my energy. There's almost endless opportunity to gain experience in different areas and commit to industry initiatives outside of work.

### Inspiring words

It's up to us.

### Favourite destination

Japan! Incredible food, great snow, lovely people and super-fast trains is a winning combination for me. I also like that you can leave Sydney on a Friday night and be skiing on the Japanese slopes the next afternoon.

### Future plans

My approach to future planning is to always be seeking and open to new opportunities. While it's not a set-in-stone roadmap, I have found it has provided me with plenty of challenges and growth so far. ■