

Title

Climate scientists: Searching the golden mean between pencil pushers and activists

Name

Erlend Moster Knudsen

Affiliation

Pole to Paris

Personal bio

Erlend Moster Knudsen is a climate researcher and science communicator, working as a deputy director of Pole to Paris. He earned his PhD in Arctic climate dynamics from the University of Bergen and the Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research in March 2015. Since then, he has been co-leading the NGO Pole to Paris. Its aim has been to raise awareness about climate change in general and the importance of the climate summit last December (COP21) in particular, using traditional and social media, giving talks in schools, university and in the open spheres, as well as connecting with people outside academia. As part of this, Knudsen ran 2459 km from Tromsø in the Arctic to COP21 in Paris last fall.

Description of talk

What makes two young climate scientists leave their offices to run and cycle 13,000 km across the globe?

In his talk, Dr. Knudsen will talk about what made the climate awareness campaign Pole to Paris (poletoparis.com) unique. This was one example of how climate scientists made climate information more accessible to non-academic members of society. The information involved both science from academia and impacts of it, as exemplified in personal stories told by members of the general public they met along the way. The initiative serves as an example of researchers are mobilizing knowledge to inform policy and build vibrant rural futures. However, there are not only positives associated with an unusual choice like this. The talk will thus include a discussion of the role scientists have in association with politics, media and opposing industries.