

Coastal Conservation League and the College of Charleston Dept. of Philosophy  
Present

# Collective Responsibility and Climate Change

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Human induced global warming is the most significant environment challenge the human species has faced in the long history of civilization. Who is to blame? Who is responsible, morally, for responding to it insofar as we can? Arguably, we human beings as a group (and some of us more than others) are collectively morally responsible for having caused and continuing to contribute to global warming (for none of us can do it alone), and arguably we are collectively responsible for doing something about it (for, again, none of us can do it alone). In this talk, I take a look at the ground for the claim that we bear both backwards looking collective responsibility for global warming and forward looking collective responsibility for doing something about it, and at what the relation is between the claim that we bear *collective* responsibility and our *individual* responsibilities. I will develop an account of shared intention, one that makes each participant equally responsible in full for the harms done, and not just in proportion to their causal contribution. I will also consider the complications presented by a real-world case like climate change and the role of institutions, governments and states in assignments of responsibility.

**March 23 at  
6:30pm  
School of  
Science & Math  
Auditorium (202  
Calhoun Street)**



*A reception will follow in the School of Science and Math Atrium*