OSS11-2011-000072

Abstract for an Invited Paper for the OSS11 Meeting of the American Physical Society

Portal to the Future EVALYN GATES, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Museums are a portal connecting us to a deeper understanding of the world in which we live, from our own backyards to the most distant galaxies; an access point to the incredible discoveries we have made about the natural world and a flashpoint for inspiring the next generation of explorers. The Cleveland Museum of Natural History is poised to redefine what a natural history museum can be, offering visitors an opportunity to travel through space and time to explore the origins of our planet, follow the evolution of life on Earth and project into – and plan for – the future. The Museum will launch visitors into the future this summer via SmartHome Cleveland – an extremely energy-efficient "passive house" that will demonstrate the future of green building technology. This unique exhibit is part of a special series of exhibits, programs and workshops on sustainability, including a major exhibit on *Climate Change*, which will be featured at the Museum this summer and fall.