

Alabama Global Warming Fact Sheet

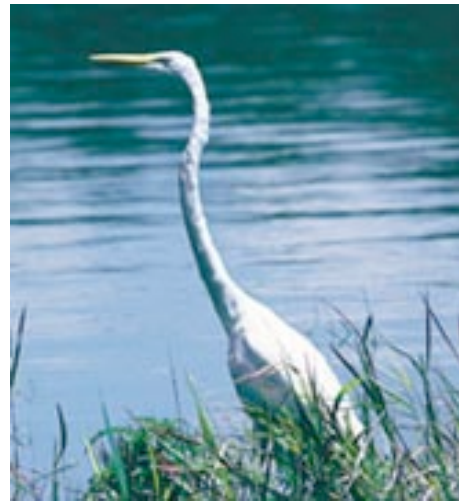
*What it is, how it's caused, and
what needs to be done to stop it.*

Global warming is one of our toughest environmental challenges, threatening the health of people, wildlife and economies around the world. The United States is the leading global warming polluter: with only 4 percent of the world's population, we produce 25 percent of the carbon dioxide pollution.

The problem is carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping pollution -- mainly from cars, power plants and other industrial sources that burn fossil fuels -- collecting like a blanket in the atmosphere. As a result, the planet is getting warmer. The Earth's surface temperature has risen by 1.6° F in the past century, with accelerated warming during the past two decades, and 2006 was the warmest year on record in the United States.

Global Warming in Alabama

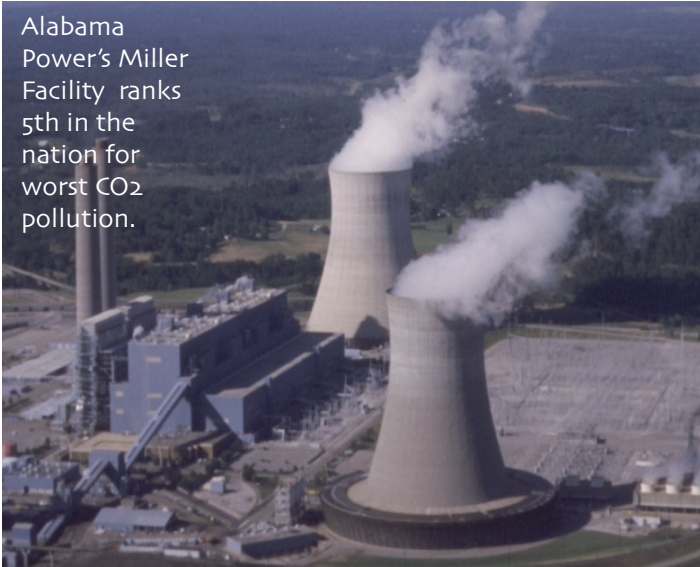
- Alabama's Coastal Birding Trail, which draws thousands of birdwatchers each year to sites along the Gulf Coast such as Dauphin Island Audubon Sanctuary, is at significant risk for habitat change due to increases in temperatures and rising sea levels. The warmer temperatures may also cause the hardwood forests of northern Alabama to be replaced by pastures and grasslands.
- Rapid temperature increases, flooding and changes in rainfall may lead to losses of landscape, prime real estate, water quality and species diversity in natural areas like the Sipsey Wilderness Area.
- Catastrophic storms, like Hurricane Ivan, and thunder storms may occur with greater intensity as the climate changes, contributing to excessive erosion, flooding, loss of human life, devastating losses to property and increases in insurance costs to residents throughout the state.
- Hotter, more humid conditions will likely encourage the spread of tropical diseases, may increase heat-related illnesses and death from more frequent heat waves, and may exacerbate smog levels across the state.



Snowy egret in the marshes along
Alabama's Coastal Birding Trail

Clean Energy Solutions

Alabama Power's Miller Facility ranks 5th in the nation for worst CO₂ pollution.



Power plants are the largest U.S. source of global warming pollution, producing 2.5 billion tons of heat-trapping pollution every year.

Alabama power plants contribute nearly 75 million tons of carbon dioxide annually and the state ranks 9th in the nation for worst pollution from CO₂ emissions.

We *can* meet our energy needs without all the pollution.

- Over 30% of our electricity in Alabama comes from decades-old, dirty coal-burning power plants -- these dinosaurs can be phased out, cleaned up, and replaced with cleaner sources.
- Relying more on renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar power, and certain types of biomass, would dramatically reduce global warming pollution.
- Making our homes, offices and industries much more energy-efficient would cut pollution *and* save money. Choose a compact fluorescent light bulb and you'll lower your energy bill *and* keep half a ton of carbon dioxide out of the air.
- Visit our website: www.cleanenergy.org to learn more about global warming.



Solar panels, such as this one, offer a viable option for energy generation in Alabama

**For more information contact the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
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