

Florida Global Warming Fact Sheet

What is Global Warming?

Global warming is caused by carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other heat-trapping pollution – mainly from cars, power plants and industrial sources that burn fossil fuels – that collects in the atmosphere like an insulating blanket. As a result, the planet is getting warmer. The Earth's surface temperature rose by 1.6 degrees F in the past century, and 2006 was the warmest year on record in the United States.



In 2007, the world's leading authority on global warming, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), stated with 90% certainty that global warming is occurring and that human-caused pollution is the main factor in warming since 1950. A 2007 report released by the National Environmental Trust entitled *Taking Responsibility* concluded that Florida emits more than 260 million metric tons of CO₂ annually equaling the emissions of 98 developing countries.

Global Warming Impacts in Florida



The Florida Everglades

- Sea level along Florida's coast is rising 6-10 times faster than the average rate over the past 3,000 years and studies suggest sea levels worldwide may rise by 7 to 23 inches during this century.
- Rapid sea level rise, changes in rainfall and temperature increases will lead to losses in habitat and real estate and declines species diversity in natural areas like the Everglades, the Florida Keys, mangroves and coral reefs.
- Catastrophic storms, like Hurricanes Rita and Wilma, may occur with greater intensity contributing to excessive beach erosion, loss of human life, devastating losses to property and increased insurance fees for Florida residents.
- Hotter, more humid conditions will likely encourage the spread of tropical diseases and may increase heat-related illnesses and death from more frequent heat waves.

Global Warming Solutions

Global warming is one of the most urgent and serious problems of our time and, solutions exist at all levels of government. Here are some examples of the solutions we need at the national and state level and what you can do to support the forward momentum for change.

What Our Country Can Do

1. Scientists say we need to reduce global warming pollution at least 80% by 2050 to avoid the catastrophic impacts of global warming. In order to achieve this goal, we need a national climate policy to reduce our global warming pollution.
2. A national climate policy should auction, rather than give away, pollution credits so the revenues can incentivize clean energy sources.
3. To support a national climate policy, we also need federal renewable energy and energy efficiency standards as well as tax incentives to support investments in clean, efficient energy use and production.

What Florida Can Do

1. In July 2007, Governor Crist set goals to put Florida on the path toward a clean energy future.
2. The Florida Legislature adopted many of the Governor's goals in the 2008 Energy Bill.
3. Thank the Governor and the Legislature for their bold leadership
www.myflorida.gov



The 2008 Florida energy bill has provisions to put more solar power in the Sunshine State.

What You Can Do

1. Contact your Florida Senators – Nelson and Martinez – and ask them for their support of a national climate policy.
2. Find your Congressional representative here: <https://forms.house.gov/wyr/welcome.shtml> and ask for their support of a national climate policy, too.
3. Save money on your electric bill – use energy efficient appliances.
4. Join Southern Alliance for Clean Energy TODAY – we are working for all of these solutions and your membership keeps us going!

**For more information contact
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
1-866-522-SACE (7223) • www.cleanenergy.org**