

# Georgia Global Warming Fact Sheet

## What is Global Warming?

Global warming is caused by carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) 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 Georgia emits more than 176 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually equaling the emissions of 90 developing countries.

## Global Warming Impacts in Georgia



Cumberland Island National Seashore

- Sea levels along Georgia's coastlines are rising faster than the average rate over the past 3,000 years and studies suggest sea levels may rise by 7 to 23 inches during this century.
- Catastrophic storms, like Hurricane Katrina, and thunder storms may occur with greater intensity as the climate changes, contributing to excessive erosion, flooding, loss of lives, devastating losses to property, and increases in insurance costs.
- Rapid temperature increases, changes in precipitation, and sea level rises may lead to declines in crop productivity, losses of landscape, water quality, and species diversity in natural areas like Cumberland Island National Seashore.
- 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.

# 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 Georgia Can Do

1. Governor Perdue should sign HB 670 to support renewable energy development and energy efficiency in Georgia.
2. Georgia state lawmakers need to evaluate ways to address the impacts of global warming to Georgia's natural resources.
3. Georgia can lead by rejecting new coal and nuclear plant proposals in the state and investing instead in clean, renewable energy such as bioenergy, wind and solar.



Studies underway in evaluate offshore wind energy development in Georgia

## What You Can Do

1. Contact your Georgia Senators – Chambliss and Isakson – 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. Call Governor Perdue at 404/656-1776 to ask him to sign HB 670.
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](http://www.cleanenergy.org)**