

Mississippi 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 Mississippi

- Recent findings indicate that global warming is likely to cause sea levels to rise worldwide by 7 to 23 inches by 2100. Rising sea levels along Mississippi's coast will increase erosion and loss of habitat, impacting places like the Gulf Islands National Seashore. Protected species of shore birds that nest in colonies along the seashore, such as terns and skimmers, may lose more than 50 percent of their habitat.



Sunset along the dunes at Gulf Islands National Seashore

- Catastrophic storms, like Hurricane Katrina, may occur with greater intensity as the climate changes, contributing to excessive erosion, flooding and storm surges, loss of human life, devastating losses to property, and increases in insurance costs for residents throughout the state.

- Hotter conditions may lead to significant reductions in crop productivity among our region's primary crops, such as soybeans, cotton and corn.

- 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.

Clean Energy Solutions

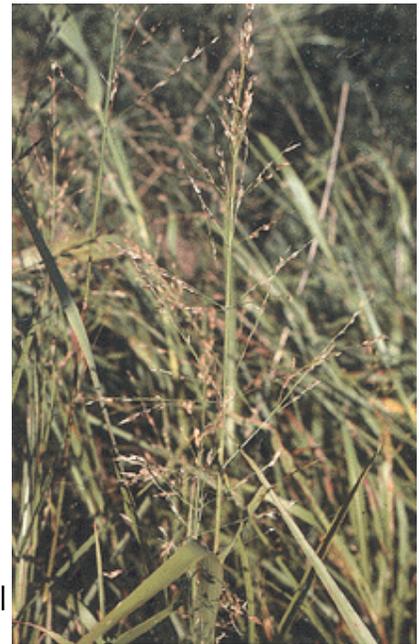


Power plants are the largest U.S. source of global warming pollution, producing 2.5 billion tons of heat-trapping pollution every year.

Mississippi power plants contribute nearly 23 million tons of carbon dioxide annually and the state ranks 33rd in the nation for worst pollution from CO₂ emissions.

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

- Almost 10% of our electricity in Mississippi 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.



Switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*) is a native species, and may provide farmers with a high-yielding crop for biomass production throughout the Southeast

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