

North Carolina Global Warming Fact Sheet

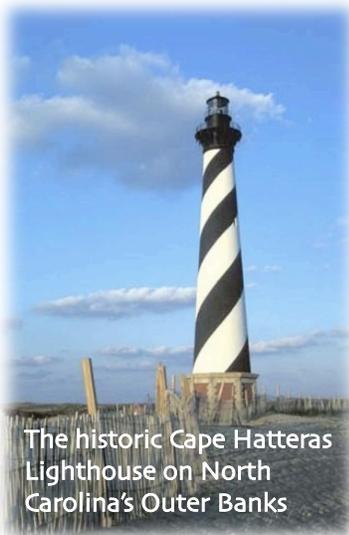
What is Global Warming?

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 North Carolina emits more than 152 million metric tons of CO₂ annually equaling the emissions of 87 developing countries.

Global Warming Impacts in North Carolina



The historic Cape Hatteras Lighthouse on North Carolina's Outer Banks

- 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 North Carolina's coast will erode the 72-mile Cape Hatteras National Seashore and threatened the area's natural and historic treasures such as the famous 138-year old Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.
- Catastrophic storms, like Hurricanes Isabel and Frances, and thunder storms may occur with greater intensity contributing to excessive erosion, flooding, loss of human life, devastating losses to property, and increases in insurance costs. North Carolina is already impacted by more hurricanes than any state except Florida.
- The forests of North Carolina and the Great Smoky Mountains are known for their diversity of plant and animal species which may decline by 5-15% as a result of changes in climate.

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 North Carolina Can Do

1. In 2005, the General Assembly created the North Carolina Legislative Commission on Global Climate Change. We need our lawmakers to adopt a carbon reduction goal for the state.
2. The state of N.C. recently approved an air pollution permit to allow Duke Energy to build a new coal-fired power plant that will release over 6 million tons of additional global warming pollution annually. We must invest our resources into clean, renewable energy – not coal!



What You Can Do

1. Contact your North Carolina Senators – Dole and Burr – 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 as well.
3. Please visit www.stopcliffside.org to help stop the Cliffside power plant!
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**

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