

Tennessee 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 Tennessee emits more than 130 million metric tons of CO₂ annually equaling the emissions of 83 developing countries.

Global Warming Impacts in Tennessee



- The forests of Tennessee and the 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.
- Rapid temperature increases, flooding and changes in rainfall may lead to declines in crop productivity, losses of landscape, and declines in water quality and species diversity.
- Hotter, more humid conditions will encourage the spread of tropical diseases into temperate regions, may increase heat-related illnesses and death from more frequent heat waves, and may exacerbate smog levels, particularly in urban areas.
- Catastrophic storms, like Hurricane Katrina, and thunder storms may increase in intensity as the climate changes and will contribute to excessive erosion, flooding, loss of human life, losses to property, and increases in insurance costs.

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 Tennessee Can Do

1. In 2008, Governor Bredesen created an energy task force to make Tennessee a leader in energy efficiency and conservation, and the development and use of clean-energy technologies.
2. Tennessee state lawmakers need to pass laws and budgets that support energy conservation and the 'greening' of homes and businesses.
3. Tennessee can lead the way by creating 'green' jobs to support a clean energy future.



TVA Windmills on Buffalo Mountain, Oak Ridge, TN

What You Can Do

1. Contact your Tennessee Senators – Alexander and Corker – 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. Demand that any new TVA energy production be from renewable sources.
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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