

ADVOCATING FOR CLIMATE ACTION

WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?

Climate change is the measurable increase in the average temperatures in both the atmosphere and oceans over time. Although heat-trapping pollution such as carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane occur naturally, the human activity of burning fossil fuels has significantly and rapidly increased the concentrations of these gases.

The consequences of a changing climate have impacted public health, safety, the environment and the global economy for decades. NASA reports that 2000 to 2009 was the [hottest decade ever recorded](#). Extreme temperatures and [weather events](#) in 2010-2011 made headlines and set new records.

With thousands of miles of coastline, sensitive ecosystems and economies based largely on agriculture and tourism, the Southeast is arguably one of the most vulnerable regions in the United States to a changing climate. Current and future climate impacts include drought, flooding, sea-level rise, worsened air quality and extreme weather events.

Climate-friendly solutions such as renewable energy and energy efficiency are available today, but require us to be engaged in our daily energy choices and with our policymakers. By utilizing existing resources and innovating new technologies, we can achieve the goal of a carbon-free economy.



Southeastern coal plants produce significant amounts of climate pollution.



Our Southern coasts are threatened by rising sea levels triggered by a changing climate.

WHAT SACE IS DOING

- SACE is entirely devoted to solving the climate crisis. Every aspect of our diverse programmatic work is dedicated to promoting responsible energy choices that solve global warming problems and ensure clean, safe and healthy communities throughout the Southeast.
- For more than 25 years, we have worked to increase citizens' understanding of how climate change is impacting our communities and way of life and how coal, our dominant energy source, is exacerbating the problem.
- SACE is a leading voice from the Southeast [urging elected officials to adopt policies](#) that set limits and begin to reduce climate pollution on a national scale.
- Recognizing that coastal communities are vulnerable to climate impacts, we have built a [vibrant network of coastal leaders](#) who advocate for meaningful policy and technology solutions for a warming world.
- SACE works with community partners to shed light on the disproportionate impacts that climate change has on communities of color. We will continue to empower and elevate diverse voices in the quest for fair and just climate solutions.