CHANGE THE FORECAST FOR WILDLIFE

SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

Global Warming and KANSAS

USDA

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates that average temperatures in Kansas could rise about 6.75 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100 if global warming continues unabated. Already, this warming can be clearly seen in other regions of the world like the Arctic, where towns are literally melting into the sea. While many Kansans might think those problems are far away from them, a recent computer model done by the NASA Goddard Institute of Space Studies shows just how connected the two are. The climate of Kansas is directly affected by cold air masses that blow in from the Arctic. A warmer Arctic winter means a warmer Kansas winter, which is bad news for winter wheat crops in the Sunflower State. Agriculture producers would not be the only ones feeling the affects of global warming. Similar models and research suggest changes ranging from more extreme weather events to declining wildlife habitat to more problems with Kansas' water resources. We can solve global warming and revitalize our economy by rebuilding America with clean energy.

Global warming effects on Kansas wildlife

Kansas is home to an incredible diversity of native wildlife species, including 341 birds, 82 mammals, 64 reptiles, 121 fish and 29 amphibians. Rising temperatures in the state will likely change the makeup of entire ecosystems, forcing wildlife to shift their ranges or adapt.

- Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve supports more than 620 species of plants and animals, including badgers, white-tailed deer, coyotes and the unique grasses for which the preserve is named. A warmer and drier climate could increase untimely wildfires and cause further habitat destruction.

- Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge are critical habitats for a number of migratory bird species, including waterfowl, shorebirds and sandhill cranes. A greater need for irrigation, coupled with an already degraded ecosystem has caused these wetlands to frequently dry up—a problem that could be exacerbated by hotter, drier conditions from global warming.

Bob Gress

- The breeding range of 34 species of songbirds could shift out of Kansas due to climate factors and changing food sources. Included are six sparrows, four warblers and three vireos.

Global Warming Pollution

Burning coal, gas and oil produces carbon dioxide, which is a greenhouse gas that warms the planet as it builds up in the atmosphere. Some of the carbon dioxide released today remains in the atmosphere after even 100 years, trapping more and more heat.

Since the mid-1800s, emissions of carbon dioxide have skyrocketed, causing global temperatures to rise by about 1˚ Fahrenheit in the last century. Earth has not experienced such a rapid change in temperature in thousands of years.

A Global Solution

The U.S. must lead the world by passing global warming legislation at home and working with other nations at the Copenhagen climate summit at the end of 2009 to sign a new climate treaty that keeps further warming below 2˚ Fahrenheit. With a global solution, we can avoid the worst impacts of global warming.

What's at stake for Kansans?

Changes from global warming threaten not only to degrade the natural forest and aquatic ecosystems of Kansas, but also the health and economy of the state.

- As climate warms, Kansas farmers may be forced to shift to different crops, which could impact the state's $7.3 billion annual production agriculture industry.
- Scientists have found that warmer temperatures caused by global warming can lead to higher concentrations of ground-level ozone pollution, a leading cause of respiratory problems, especially for children and seniors.
- Warmer conditions could increase the lifespan of disease-carrying insects, spreading illnesses like West Nile virus and Lyme disease.
- Loss of wildlife and habitat could mean a loss of tourism dollars. In 2006, nearly 1.5 million people spent more than $643 million on wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing in Kansas.The industry in turn supported 15,364 jobs in the state.* *(Jobs are an average of 2001 and 2006 data.)*

"Global warming poses an overriding challenge to our responsibility to protect wildlife for our children's future. We must advance balanced solutions that work for people, wildlife and the economy to overcome this challenge."—

Larry Schweiger
President, CEO
National Wildlife Federation

Global Warming National Policy Solution:

A federal legislative solution can drive American ingenuity, create millions of green jobs, and restore America's global leadership on global warming. Legislation should:

* Include ambitious targets to reduce America's global warming pollution as swiftly and deeply as possible. Scientists say that developed countries as a whole need to reduce their global warming pollution by at least 80% from 1990 levels by 2050 to avoid the worst impacts of global warming.

* Move America toward a 100% clean electricity future by maximizing energy efficiency, modernizing the electric power grid, expanding power generation from renewable energy resources, and investing in clean transportation infrastructure.

* Invest in natural resources. Forests, coasts, wetlands, clean air and clean water are already being impacted by global warming. Funding is needed to safeguard the natural resources that are critical to wildlife populations and human health.

* Lead a worldwide effort to finance clean energy technology, forest conservation, and adaptation to unavoidable impacts of global warming.

For more information, visit: **www.nwf.org/globalwarming.**

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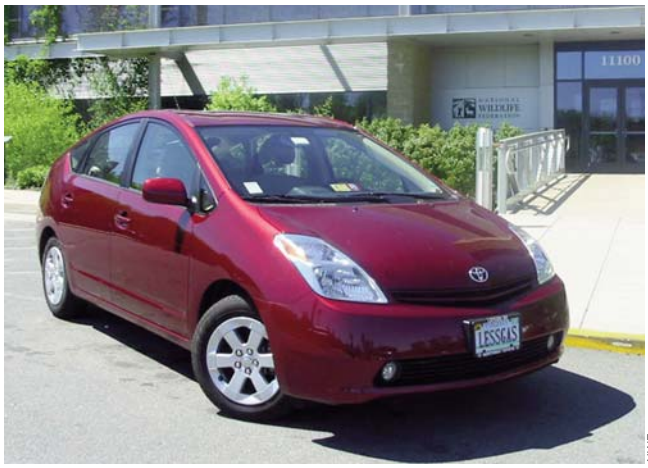

NWF

Kansas' solutions to global warming

Kansas is in the process of developing innovative solutions to global warming.

- About 70-100 farmers in the state are taking part in a pilot project through the Chicago Climate Exchange, using "no-till" and other strategies to store carbon in the soil. The practice has been found to be one of the best ways to reduce carbon pollution and has the added benefits of decreasing soil erosion while increasing wildlife habitat, soil fertility and water quality.
- Kansas ranks third in the nation in wind energy potential, with the prospect of producing more than 100 percent of the state's power from wind. Properly sited wind operations that do not harm native wildlife and habitat have promise as viable renewable energy sources.
- In April, 2005, the University of Kansas received a $19 million grant from the National Science Foundation to finance the Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets, where researchers will be better able to understand global warming and the affects of rising sea levels.

Following some simple guidelines, you can cut your global warming pollution, become more energy efficient and give something back to nature.

- **Plant shade trees:** The Department of Energy says planting three trees strategically around your home to block the sun in summer and wind in winter can reduce your annual heating and cooling costs by an average of 40 percent.
- **Act locally:** Contact your mayor and ask that (s)he sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, committing your city or town to meet or beat the global warming pollution reductions outlined in the Kyoto Protocol.

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NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

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The voice of outdoor Kansas