



CHANGE THE FORECAST FOR WILDLIFE SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

Global Warming and ILLINOIS

The drought emergency declared throughout much of Illinois in 2005 illustrates one of the potential problems global warming poses in the coming decades. Farmers, communities and wildlife all depend on healthy streamflows throughout the state. While global warming projections indicate higher rain and snow levels in winter and spring in Illinois, the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Ecological Society of America estimate that by 2100, average summer temperatures in the state could increase between 9-17 degrees Fahrenheit depending on the extent to which greenhouse gas emissions are curbed. This could contribute to higher evaporation rates and drier conditions overall. Rain—when it does come—is projected to come in more severe downpours, contributing to major flooding in parts of the state. We can solve global warming and revitalize our economy by rebuilding America with clean energy.



Global warming effects on Illinois wildlife

Illinois is home to an incredible diversity of native wildlife species, including 311 birds, 67 mammals, 60 reptiles, 188 fish and 39 amphibians. Rising temperatures will likely change the makeup of ecosystems, forcing wildlife to shift their ranges or adapt.

- By 2080, warmer weather could reduce up to 91 percent of the wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region, an area in the northern Great Plains on both sides of the U.S./Canadian border that is one of the most important waterfowl breeding grounds in North America. This could lead to a 9-69 percent decline in the number of ducks breeding in the region, affecting Mississippi and Central Flyway populations of mallards, gadwall, blue-winged teal and northern pintail.
- Global warming is likely to alter the composition of the state's forests. Warmer, drier summers, for example, could enable southern pines to replace deciduous trees in the southern part of the state, forcing some animals that depend on the trees to migrate northward to survive.



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- Higher water temperatures along with reduced streamflow and lake levels could significantly reduce habitat for lake trout, brook trout and walleye in Illinois' lakes and streams.

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 Illinoisans?

Illinois is no stranger to severe weather conditions. In the past 15 years, the state has seen severe drought in 1988, flooding in 1993 and 2002, heat waves in 1995 and 1996, and a destructive windstorm in Bloomington in 1999. The severity of such storms is consistent with what climate scientists expect will occur more and more as global warming continues, and is only one way global warming will touch upon the lives of the people in the state.

- Recently mosquitoes carrying dengue fever, Eastern equine encephalitis and LaCrosse encephalitis have spread north into Chicago. Global warming could shift their range further northward as the predicted hotter and wetter conditions allow them to breed faster and survive longer.
- Inconsistent precipitation levels are projected to put more pressure on already scarce water resources, causing Illinois' farmers to take a hit. Scientists predict corn yields will decrease by as much as a 32 percent and soybean yields as much as 24 percent due to changing weather patterns.
- Loss of wildlife and habitat could mean a loss of tourism dollars. In 2006, more than 3.7 million people spent more than \$2.2 billion on hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing in Illinois. The industry in turn supported 35,320 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.



Illinois' solutions to global warming

Illinois has recently passed several renewable energy and energy efficiency mandates and has announced greenhouse gas emissions targets.

- In 2007, Governor Blagojevich announced statewide greenhouse gas emission reduction targets of 1990 levels by 2020 and 60% below 1990 levels by 2050.
- In 2007, a new law was passed creating a Renewable Energy Standard requiring utilities to produce 2% of their power from renewable sources in 2008 and increasing to 25% by 2025. This law also includes an energy efficiency standard requiring a 2% reduction in electric usage by 2015.
- Illinois requires all state agencies to purchase electricity generated by renewable-energy resources, starting at 5% by 2010 and increasing to 15% by 2020.
- Illinois is also home to the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX), a financial institution designed as a global marketplace for voluntary, but legally binding greenhouse gas emissions reductions and credit trading. In the Fall of 2006 Illinois became the second state to join the CCX.

The Midwest Governors Association Energy and Climate Stewardship Platform

In late 2007, Illinois was one of nine Midwest states and the Province of Manitoba that signed on to an aggressive energy and climate program that plans major steps forward for the region on renewable energy, energy efficiency, next generation biofuels, and carbon capture and storage. Through their leadership on energy, the states also seek to boost the region's economy by stimulating investment, creating new jobs, and stabilizing energy prices. In addition, the states of Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin have signed the Midwestern Regional Greenhouse Gas Accord. The Accord will establish greenhouse gas reduction targets and a market based cap and trade mechanism to help achieve these targets by late 2008.

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Protecting Illinois' Streams