



CHANGE THE FORECAST FOR WILDLIFE
SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

Global Warming and TEXAS

Texas' growing population is putting pressure on the state's water resources like never before. Global warming may well make the state's water woes even more troubling in the decades to come. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates average temperatures in Texas could rise about 5.85 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100 if global warming continues unabated. This will likely bring hotter, drier summers. Wildfires may increase, droughts will get worse and rains—when they do come—will likely come in more severe downpours that may cause more flash flooding. Sea level rise may also affect people and wildlife along low-lying coastal zones. We can solve global warming and revitalize our economy by rebuilding America with clean energy.



Global warming effects on Texas wildlife

Texas is home to an incredible diversity of native wildlife species, including 477 birds, 159 mammals, 149 reptiles, 175 fish and 71 amphibians. Rising temperatures and sea level in the state will likely change the makeup of entire ecosystems, forcing wildlife to shift their ranges or adapt.

- Higher average temperatures are likely to make conditions more favorable for invasive species such as the Chinese tallow to outcompete native wildlife for habitat. The tree increased 30-fold in Southeast Texas between 1981-1995.

- The American redstart and grasshopper sparrow are among 31 songbird species whose breeding range could shift out of Texas as global warming changes the state's climate.



- Scientists project that sea level along the Texas coast could rise as much as 38 inches in some places by 2100, inundating marshes and estuaries that provide stopover and wintering habitat for many ducks and geese found in the United States.

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 Texans?

Much of Texas is already hot and dry, but changes from global warming will push the limits of many species and ecosystems, at the same time threatening the health and economy of the state.

- The EPA estimates that sand replenishment to protect the Texas coast from a 20-inch rise in sea level could cost between \$4.2-\$12.8 billion. Models suggest that sea level could rise even higher in some areas.
- Brown shrimp caught off the U.S. Gulf Coast could decline 25 percent with only a 10-inch rise in sea level as salt water inundates the bays and estuaries behind the barrier islands separating the Texas mainland from the Gulf of Mexico.
- 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 in children and seniors.
- Loss of wildlife and habitat could mean a loss of tourism dollars. In 2006, nearly 7.8 million people spent more than \$8.4 billion on wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing in Texas. The industry in turn supported 134,232 jobs in Texas.* (*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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Texas' solutions to global warming

Texas has the potential to be a leader in developing solutions to global warming.

- Texas was one of the first states to pass a renewable portfolio standard, setting a goal to generate 4.2 percent of the state’s electricity from renewable sources by 2015.
- The Texas Loan STAR Program, administered by the Texas Energy Conservation Office, provides financing for energy efficiency projects for state agencies, state universities, school districts and local governments.
- Texas has the potential to generate more than 98 percent of its electricity needs from wind power.

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

- **Convert to compact fluorescent bulbs:** If every household in America replaced its next burned out light bulb with a compact fluorescent, we would prevent more than 13 billion pounds of carbon dioxide from being emitted.
- **Become a Green Tag subscriber:** Many states now offer options for homeowners to buy electricity from clean, renewable sources such as wind, solar and biomass that produce little or no global warming pollution. Green energy can also be purchased through the National Wildlife Federation by visiting www.nwf.org/energy.
- **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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