



CHANGE THE FORECAST FOR WILDLIFE
SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

Global Warming and NEW JERSEY

From the Pine Barrens of the outer coastal plain to the Atlantic beaches that attract visitors year-round, forests and water are some of New Jersey's most valued natural resources. They are also two resources very much at risk from global warming. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates average temperatures in New Jersey could rise about 4 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100 if global warming continues unabated. Sea level is expected to rise along the state's 1,792 miles of shoreline by up to 27 inches in the same timeframe, leaving a densely populated coast and unique tidal wetland system at great risk. We can solve global warming and revitalize our economy by rebuilding America with clean energy.



Global warming effects on New Jersey wildlife

New Jersey is home to an incredible diversity of native wildlife species, including 340 birds, 71 mammals, 67 fish, 42 reptiles and 31 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.

- Salt-water intrusion and inundation due to rising sea levels could greatly reduce the state's extensive coastal wetlands, harming essential foraging grounds for many wading birds and waterfowl such as the pied-billed grebe.



- The EPA estimates that forests in New Jersey will change as temperatures rise, bringing more southern pines and oaks northward to replace the hardwood forests currently found in the northern part of the state.
- The breeding range of many species of songbirds—including several different flycatchers, swallows, chickadees and warblers—may be pushed out of New Jersey in the summer. Some of these birds are important to the state not only for their beautiful sounds, but for their appetite for gypsy moths, tent caterpillars and other invasive pests that harm vegetation.

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 New Jersey?

Global warming poses a real threat to the future of New Jersey's economy, impacting the state's tourism, agriculture and forestry industries that depend on a healthy ecosystems.

- Sea level rise due to global warming could cost New Jersey's coast. The EPA estimates sand replenishment and seawall construction to protect Long Beach Island from a possible 1-3 foot sea level rise in the coming century could total between \$100-\$500 million. The Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates that a 1-foot rise in sea level could increase flood insurance premiums in New Jersey by 35-60 percent.
- 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 such as asthma, especially in children and seniors.
- Loss of wildlife and habitat could mean a loss of tourism dollars. In 2006, more than 2.6 million people spent nearly \$1.5 billion on hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing in New Jersey. The industry in turn supported 36,206 jobs in the state.* (*Jobs are an average of 2001 and 2006.*)

“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.



New Jersey's solutions to global warming

New Jersey signed a 2001 compact between Northeast governors and neighboring Canadian provincial leaders requiring a collective reduction of global warming pollution in the region.

- The state has adopted an action plan to reduce global warming pollution, setting a goal to cut emissions by 3.5 percent below 1990 levels by 2005 using readily-available energy conservation techniques.
- New Jersey has the potential to meet more than 31 percent of its electricity needs with renewable energy. More than 84 percent of its renewable energy potential comes from wind, with the rest from biomass and landfill gas.

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.
- **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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