

The Truth About Global Warming

People of all religions have a shared purpose in doing our part to keep God's Earth clean and healthy for the future. As people of faith, we have a responsibility to speak the truth and demand accountability on the part of our elected officials. One thing is clear – the impacts of climate change during this century and beyond will be far greater and more rapid if global warming pollution continues to grow rapidly compared to scenarios in which concentrations grow more slowly. Here are the latest findings of the United States Global Change Research Program that were presented to Congress, and it's why action is now critical!

- **Global warming is unequivocal and primarily human-induced.** The emissions from burning fossil fuels, such as oil and coal, are creating a layer of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere that acts like a blanket, trapping heat.
- **Climate destabilization is underway in the United States.** This is contributing to rising temperatures and chaotic weather.
- **Widespread climate-related impacts are occurring now and are expected to increase.** Climate changes are already affecting water, energy, transportation, agriculture, ecosystems, and health.
- **Climate change will stress water resources.** Water supply and demand is already altered and will continue to change. Dry regions will become drier and wet regions will become wetter.
- **Crop and livestock production will be increasingly challenged.** Increased heat, pests, water stress, diseases, and weather extremes will pose adaptation challenges for crop and livestock production. Plant reproduction will also be affected.
- **Coastal areas are at increasing risk from sea-level rise and storm surge.** Many U.S. coastal areas are at increasing risk of erosion and flooding.
- **Threats to human health will increase.** Health impacts of climate change are related to heat stress, waterborne diseases, poor air quality, extreme weather events, and diseases transmitted by insects.
- **Climate change is happening, but the extent of the impact depends on choices we make today.** The impacts of climate change during this century and beyond will be far greater and more rapid if global warming pollution continues to grow rapidly compared to scenarios in which concentrations grow more slowly.

What You Can Do

- Model energy efficiency in your congregation and in your home. We can show you how. Visit www.coolcongregations.org for tools and resources to **become a Cool Congregation.**
- Become a clean air advocate. Many of the same safeguards that protect the environment, also benefit the climate. Sign the Clean Air Promise, visit: interfaithpowerandlight.org/clean-air-promise.
- Support efforts by the Environmental Protection Agency to uphold The Clean Air Act.



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Thank You!
Together we can protect our climate and our future.