

GLOBAL WARMING

A photograph of a polar bear cub standing on a small, dark, irregularly shaped piece of ice. The cub is facing towards the left of the frame, its mouth slightly open as if it's breathing or barking. The background is a vast expanse of dark, choppy water under a cloudy sky. The overall scene conveys a sense of environmental crisis and the impact of global warming on Arctic ecosystems.

WE HAVE A PROBLEM:

- World temperatures are forecast to jump between 2.5° F and 10.4° F by 2100 due to global warming pollution fueled by our addiction to oil, coal and gas.¹
- Rising seas, heat waves, cold snaps, drought and extreme storms like Hurricane Katrina will ruin millions of lives. The World Health Organization has estimated that 200,000 people have already died worldwide from global warming.
- Instead of slashing greenhouse gas emissions, Bush administration policies are jacking them up.

SOLUTION:

- Reduce global warming pollution from cars, power plants and industry.
- Slash energy demand through improved efficiency.
- Enact laws giving industry incentives and mandatory targets to switch to renewable energy.
- The U.S. must commit to an aggressive, new energy policy.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Tell Congress to support legislation that will reduce global warming pollution.
- Demand oil industry subsidies be switched to renewables such as wind and solar.
- Don't buy gas-guzzling autos such as SUVs and pick-ups.

"The Earth's climate is nearing, but has not passed, a tipping point, beyond which it will be impossible to avoid climate change with far-ranging, undesirable consequences. These consequences would constitute practically a different planet."

James Hansen,
Director of NASA's Goddard Institute
for Space Studies, 2005

TAKE ACTION TO SAVE OUR PLANET



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The Issue

From hurricane-ravaged New Orleans to starving polar bears running out of ice on which to live,² the devastating impacts of global warming are upon us. Fueled by our addiction to oil, coal and gas, global warming has been linked to extreme storms, floods and drought around the world. The science is rock solid, with more research dedicated to global warming than any other field. Continued reckless use of fossil fuels will mean environmental catastrophe; coastal areas from Florida to Bangladesh will be permanently flooded, a quarter of all mammal species will become extinct³ and millions of people around the world will be plunged into poverty, disease and starvation.

The Solution

Slowing and reversing global warming is possible, but it will take a huge change by industry and government. Switching from oil, coal and gas to renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power will take us much of the way. Increased energy efficiency will also help. Consumers can make a difference too, for example, by choosing fuel-efficient cars. But above all, governments need to act, passing laws that oblige industry to reduce global warming pollution and provide real incentives for cleaner, alternative technology. The U.S. must lead the way; with just 4 percent of the world's population, we consume a quarter of the world's oil. The future of the planet depends on it.

The Opposition

The only people arguing against the scientists' stark warnings about global warming are the Bush administration and its friends in the oil industry. The U.S. has refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, the sole international agreement to curb greenhouse gas emissions. It's no surprise the Republicans and big oil are lining up together. Since 1989, the oil industry has donated \$180 million to congressional candidates, three-quarters of it to Republicans, not to mention \$2.6 million to George W. Bush's presidential re-election campaign.⁴

What You Can Do

SEND A MESSAGE: Call Congress at 202-224-3121 and demand that they vote for real reductions of global warming pollution and stop subsidies and tax breaks for the oil industry.

SHOP SMART: Don't buy SUVs and other gas-guzzling autos. Don't buy products from ExxonMobil, the oil giant that, more than any other, has twisted climate science to deny the reality of global warming.

LOOK FOR: Alternative energy sources for your home, such as solar power. Improve your home's energy efficiency and conserve electricity.

GET INVOLVED: On campus or online at:
www.greenpeaceusa.org/getinvolved



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Greenpeace Victories

- In 2002, Greenpeace U.S. is among the plaintiffs filing a landmark lawsuit against the U.S. government for funding fossil fuel projects without considering the global warming impacts.
- In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol, the only international treaty to curb greenhouse gases, is drafted. It is subsequently ratified by almost all countries other than the U.S.

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1. United Nations Framework Coalition on Climate Change. Temperature given in Celsius and converted to Fahrenheit. Available at: http://unfccc.int/essential_background/feeling_the_heat/items/2903.php 2. Walter Gibbs, "Research Predicts Summer Doom for Northern Icecap," *New York Times*, July 11, 2000. 3. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Available at: http://unfccc.int/essential_background/feeling_the_heat/items/2905.php 4. The Center for Responsive Politics. <http://www.capitaleye.org/inside.asp?ID=164>