

GLOBAL WARMING, WILDLIFE AND YOU



IMPACTS

By now, everyone knows that carbon dioxide (CO₂) and man-made global warming pollutants are warming our planet with potentially devastating impacts to the environment.

Arctic creatures are already feeling the heat and many species that call the Arctic home are facing an uncertain future due to global warming. Shrinking sea ice affects the availability of habitat, food and breeding areas in ways that science is just beginning to understand.

Around the country, the slow warm will shift the habitat of other creatures, such as tree species that will continually move north as their habitat shifts northward. Imagine if New England's famous sugar maples could only be found in Canada?

And picture what rising sea levels could do to coastal regions and the wildlife that live there, not to mention the vacationers, hunters and anglers that visit these places. Or imagine the central U.S. with long periods of drought each year. Imagine what that would do to the farming industry?

Global warming is happening now. We are causing it. And our actions over the next 10, 50 and 100 years will determine the fate of thousands of species of wildlife and will determine what type of world we leave to our children and grandchildren.

But there are things we can do...

SOLUTIONS

We must start by reducing industrial emissions through legislation. States across the country are already working to reduce global warming pollution, and Congress is moving on several fronts to address the issue as well. This is where the votes of your Senators and Representatives becomes are so important.

We can auction credits for greenhouse gas emissions to industry and then take part of those funds and use them to offsetting global warming's impact on wildlife and humans, an approach that fosters economic growth while protecting the environment.

We must take steps for wildlife too, because even if we act now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, wildlife will continue to feel the effects of global warming for at least the next 100 years. In the meantime, we must reduce or eliminate other threats, including habitat destruction, pollution, and resource exploitation. And we must protect habitat wherever we can.

And of course, we must all do our part locally. We can buy green power and take public transportation to work. And even simple things like changing out incandescent light bulbs for fluorescent ones, using cold water to wash our clothes, and buying organic and locally grown food can make a difference.

But most importantly, we must spread the word about the looming threat and encourage others to take action, especially our leaders in the states and in Washington, DC.