

The Truth About Climate Change and Global Warming

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The Problem

America and the world is facing a problem that will **doom humanity** if not combated. This growing problem is that of climate change. If not fixed, humankind will be forced to watch as the earth undergoes permanent changes. Scientists predict that humanity has about twenty years to fix climate change before it becomes irreversible (Jeff Turrentine). Climate change is occurring because of the **increase in greenhouse gases**, including carbon dioxide, have been increasing since the Industrial Revolution. This is because countries have become more industrialized and the demand for energy powered by either **fossil fuels or coal** has increased.

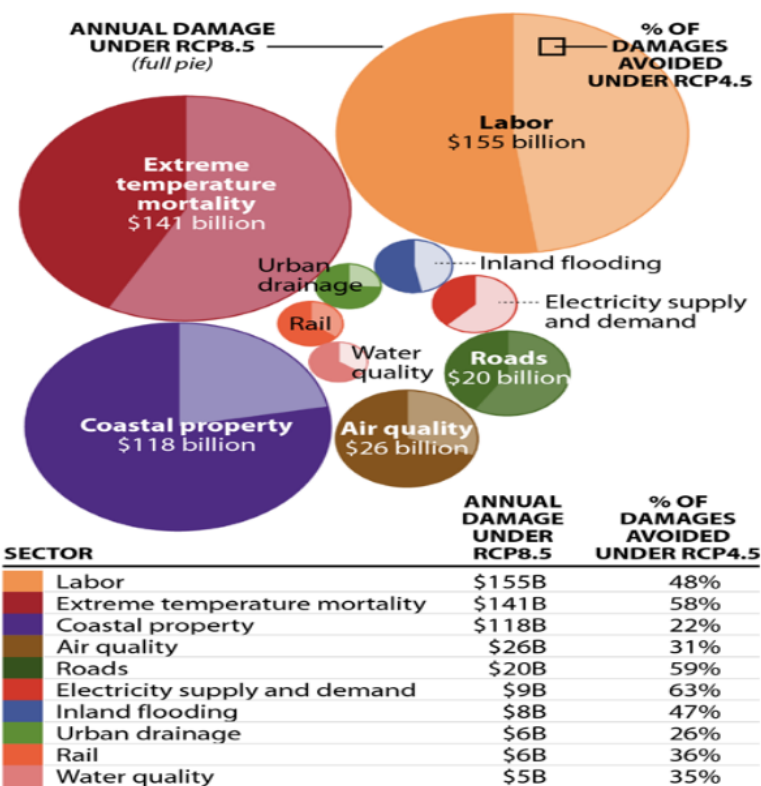
Climate Change also hurts the economy

Carbon emissions have been steadily increasing (Chen Liqi)

FROM THE 2018 NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT

Climate Change's Economic Impact

The National Climate Assessment warns that the costs of global warming are rising. If greenhouse gas emissions continue at a high rate (RCP 8.5), damage from climate change is expected to cost the U.S. economy hundreds of billions of dollars every year by 2090. If emissions peak before mid-century and start down (RCP 4.5), the U.S. economy will still suffer, but the cost will be less. The chart shows some of the top economic expenses.



SOURCE: Fourth National Climate Assessment

InsideClimate New

Figure 1 (Bob Berwyn)

Myth:
Climate Change is not real

Fact:
Climate change has been proven to be true by scientists across the globe

According to Figure 1, climate change is responsible for the loss of hundreds of billions of dollars of US GDP. The highest area affected is the labor market, costing the US 155 billion dollars

What are Some Examples?

Scientists have published reports that have confirmed the existence of climate change. Some of their findings include:

- Coral bleaching (as seen in Figure 2)
- Rising sea levels
- Global temperature increases (Figure 3)
- Glaciers melting in Asia (W. Immerzeel)
- Loss of biodiversity in the Amazon Rain Forest (Eric Dinerstein)
- More Severe Storms



Figure 2 (Hughes, Terry P)

Figure 3 represents that in the United States, temperature has been increasing throughout the country since the 1900s

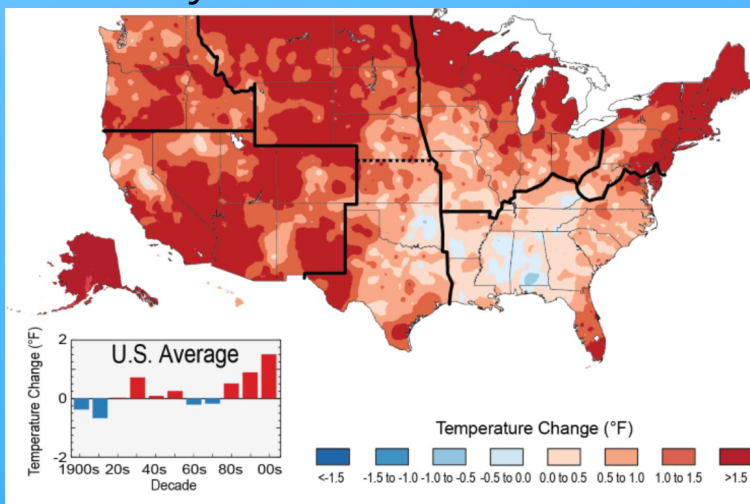


Figure 3 (National Climate Assessment)

Ways to Fight Climate Change

What a Country can do:

Adaption: adapting to the changes caused by climate change. States who use the adaption technique are more focused on changing policy after climate change has already occurred such as: **updating building codes** to reflect climate change, and designating land for animal migration and biodiversity to help slow down climate change (DJ Read).

Sustainable Development: creating more sustainable energy practices besides fossil fuels. Sustainable development practices involve building **solar panels** and other alternative sources of energy that will lessen the amount of fossil fuels consumed (DJ Read).

Mitigation: reducing the amount of fossil fuels consumed. This can be done through actions such as investing in public buses to reduce the amount of cars on the road, preserving wildlife, and the government placing carbon caps on businesses that reduce the amount of greenhouse gases released, this is the most effective strategy because it does the most to reduce the growing danger of climate change.

What individuals can do:

Individual actions that could be taken are actions that **reduce your carbon footprint**. This can include carpooling, making sure lights are turned off when you leave the room, and lessening the use of water. Also, contact your elected officials and push for climate change initiatives to be passed on the federal level.

NC Senators:

Richard Burr: (202) 224-3154

Thom Tillis: (202) 224-6342