

# Global Warming

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- A. Review of causes and effects of global warming
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Katrina hit New Orleans on August 23, 2005. It was one out of five deadly hurricanes to strike the United States. Scientists believe the severity of Katrina was a product of global temperature. Skeptics feel that some of the most recent natural disasters were not a direct result of global warming or greenhouse gases, while others say that it is self-evident. Global warming is the surge in temperature of the Earth's surface. Some scientists think that this will continue unless there is a major change in the nation and implementation of viable programs that could be acted upon immediately. The fact is that global temperature has been increasing for more than fifty years. In around ninety years, the temperature is expected to rise another six degrees Celsius, depending on the greenhouse effect. The greenhouse effect is a natural occurrence that is primarily responsible for the moderately high temperature retained on the surface of the Earth and in its air. It is unquestionable that a direct result of global warming will be an increase in the sea level. This could immerse certain cities that are presently at sea level and change the configuration of weather patterns. In this case, the deserts could expand and cause citizens to migrate into other areas of the country. If global warming were to continue in its current path, would it really affect humanity? Would this cause a domino effect ("Global Warming," 2012)?

Some skeptics think that global warming is a myth. They do not believe human activities are causing the Earth's surface to warm. The climate has been changing for many years, and many years ago, before air pollution, there were major storms. In 1502, there was the great storm on the island of Hispanola. This was the storm that Christopher Columbus predicted. There was less carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere during that era. According to some skeptics, the climate will continue to change whether or not there is a decrease in

greenhouse gases in the air. Scientists think that if we decrease carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere, climate changes will subside and balance itself out (Cook, 2015).

Researchers state that climate settings are known to be an important factor on tourism demand and as a result, ground-breaking studies blame the climate temperature as the reason tourism in some countries decreased. The lack of facts regarding domestic tourism demand has inspired the majority of studies to focus on international tourism flow and if tourists consider inland travel as the alternative to international travel. The University of Illes, which is located in Spain, explored the fact that temperature plays a part in destination choices when people go on vacation. Data was gathered on domestic travel to Spain from 2005 through 2007 and compared to the regional statistics. Results show climate is an essential factor in determining the tourism flow ("Climate Change," 2015).

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), "a group of scientists from one hundred – thirteen [sic] countries who studied the peer-reviewed research, concluded they are ninety percent confident that global warming is caused by humans" (Hawthorn, 2010). The Greenhouse Gas Emissions annual report, by sector, attributes almost 17% to industrial pollution, approximately 14% to transportation, and more than 21% on power plants ("Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions," 2011). It discusses scientific consensus and results from the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), the nation's leading scientific body of advisors. The NAS concludes that it does not seem possible to foresee global warming and that greenhouse gases are a result of human actions. Every day, more and more data is collected; however, there will always be controversy concerning global warming, such as what causes it and how it affects the atmospheric temperature (Hawthorn, 2010).

Scientists argue five facts that cannot be disputed. All scientists seem to agree that the climate has been changing for billions of years. What they tend to disagree on is what role humanity plays in causing the warming of the Earth's atmosphere. The planet is warmer than it was two centuries ago. Skeptics think that global warming is caused by natural instabilities. Statistically, the temperature of Earth's land-sea surface has not increased in almost twenty years; however, there has been an increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This causes a great debate with scientists who believe that human actions create global warming. The greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, causes the earth to warm. Scientists and skeptics seem to disagree on what part carbon dioxide play in changes that occur in the weather (Klaus, 2015)

Global warming is an increase in the temperature of the atmosphere and ocean that is caused by the greenhouse gases effect. Greenhouse effect is

warming of the surface and lower atmosphere of a planet (as Earth or Venus) that is caused by conversion of solar radiation into heat in a process involving selective transmission of short wave solar radiation by the atmosphere, its absorption by the planet's surface, and reradiation as infrared which is absorbed and partly reradiated back to the surface by atmospheric gases. ("greenhouse effect," 2015)

Increase in global temperatures is causing a wide range of changes. Some think that the changes global warming has caused are not significant enough to cause panic. One advantage of global warming is that there is less snow, which produces warmer temperatures. These changes are a plus for agriculture because carbon dioxide and sturdy water supply are crucial for plant growth. With warmer temperatures come longer growing seasons, which could mean

increased agricultural production in some areas. Warmer weather is safer and healthier, and requires less energy for heating. It could possibly prevent the next ice age from occurring (Rosenberg, 2015).

On the other hand, global warming has its disadvantages. Climate change produces higher sea levels, which could lead to the submerging of low-lying domains. It reduces the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which could lead to a shortage of food. It could also cause deserts to become drier and an increased frequency of severe catastrophic storms. This year, 2015, winter has been a little rough on the United States. From the North down to some parts of the South, snow storms have been pounding residents. Snow in Alabama is very rare; however, North Alabama encountered snow. One must wonder, is it global warming or Mother Nature?

Deforestation is one of the contributing factors to global warming. Destroying woodlands could mean extinction of mankind. Trees absorb greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide, which produces oxygen and maintain the water cycle by releasing water vapor into the air. This is very important to human growth. Scientists believe that if mankind continues the activities that cause the greenhouse gases to linger in the atmosphere, the disadvantages mentioned above will be only part of the problem. They feel that global warming will cause over-population. When areas of the world get too dry or the sea level rises, people will migrate into other parts of the world. Deforestation is the process of removing trees from the forest for its timber. A perfect solution for deforestation is to recycle. Recycling will save the trees and in turn slow down the process of global warming (Rosenberg, 2015).

In July, 2014, the Whitehouse held a hearing of the subcommittee concerning global warming. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Democrat from Rhode Island, asked the committee to reconsider the greenhouse gases effect and take a look on the other side of the fence. Even though we depend on fossil fuels and argue that steps to curb carbon pollution will hurt the economy, Senator Whitehouse asks for consideration for the following: damage to coastal homes, infrastructure and businesses from rising seas, erosion and saltwater intrusion, hospitalizations and missed school or work for families when asthma attacks or triggered by extreme heat and smog. Senator Jeff Sessions, Republican from Alabama, questions whether science is adequate enough to predict global warming. His well-qualified scientists are attesting that natural disasters have not increased in occurrence or strength as projected ten years ago (Whitehouse, 2014).

Can we really predict global warming effects? Is global warming even an issue? “In 2007, as he was accepting his Nobel Prize for his initiative on global warming, Al Gore made the prediction, ‘The North Polar ice cap is falling off a cliff. It could be completely gone during summer in as little as seven years. Seven years from now’” (qtd. in “New Reports,” 2015). Al Gore was very wrong. May 16, 2014, President Obama tweeted: “97% of scientists agree: climate change is real, man-made and dangerous” (qtd. in “New Reports,” 2015). John Kerry, Al Gore, and a host of others have championed this statistic. Since then, it has become clear that this statistic was inaccurate. The *Wall Street Journal* went as far as to say, “The assertion that 97% of scientists believe that climate change is a man-made, urgent problem is a fiction.” Forbes refuted this assertion, however, saying “Global Warming Alarmists Caught Doctoring ‘97% Consensus’ Claims” (qtd. In “New Reports,” 2015).



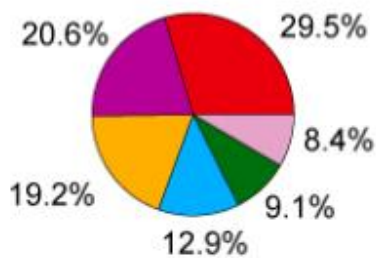
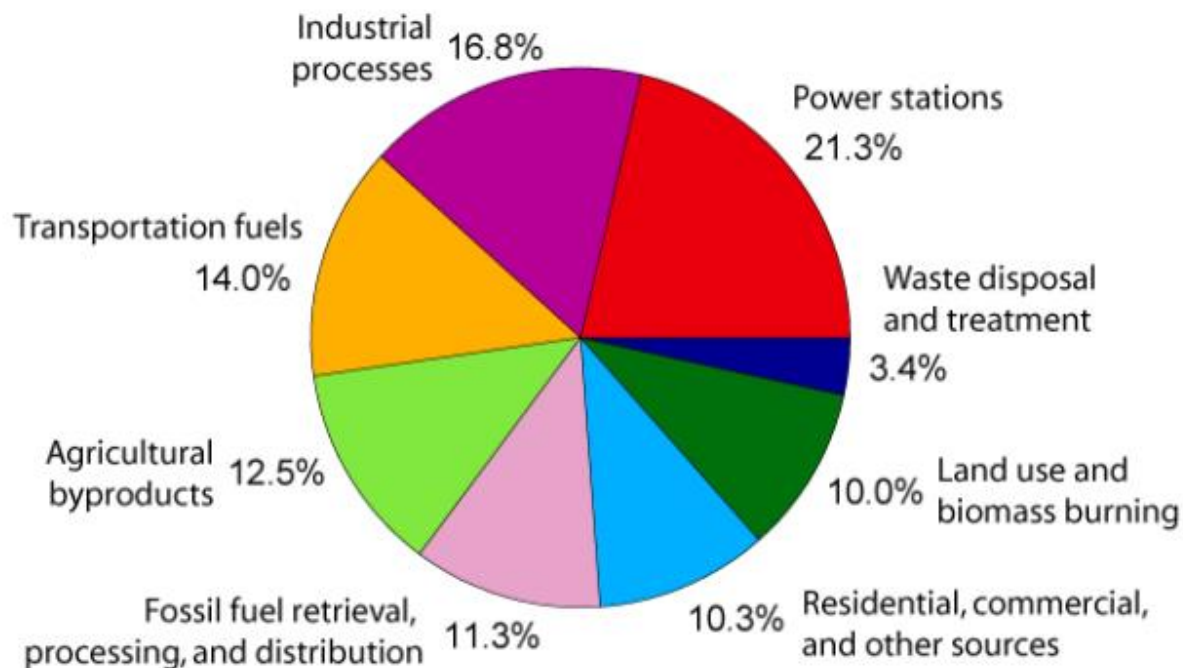
If global warming is a threat to society, whether man-made or not, there are some possible solutions that will slow down the warming of the atmosphere. We can increase the use of renewable energy and convert our energy sources into ones that are cleaner and do not depend on fossil fuel and coal, and place parameters on the amount of carbon dioxide that polluters are allowed to release into the air. We can also increase fuel-efficient vehicles and other solutions that decrease U.S. oil use, construct a clean energy budget by financing industries' new approaches for efficient energy technologies, and we can reduce tropical deforestation. "The Clean Air Act is the nation's bedrock air pollution law. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has the power and duty to create limits for carbon dioxide pollution from major sources, and in 2007 the U.S. Supreme Court agreed" ("Understanding," 2014).

In conclusion, global warming does not seem to be a real problem right now. Unfortunately, we do have our share of storms; however, fortunately, the severe ones are usually far and few between. Scientists say without the carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere, plants will die, and so will humanity. Deserts will become drier, while sea levels rise and flood low-lying areas. This will cause over-population, which brings about its own set of problems. Most scientists and some skeptics agree that global warming and the greenhouse gases are created by the activities of mankind: activities, such as deforestation, and burning fossil fuels. However, they disagree on how they were created or exactly what effects can be predicted and what those effects might have on human growth. Not only do the greenhouse gases seem to be causing global warming. The warming can cause sickness and disease within the human race. The hot summers could cause allergies, sinus problems, asthma, heat strokes, and maybe even cancer. If cancer can be contracted by inhaling second-hand smoke, just think

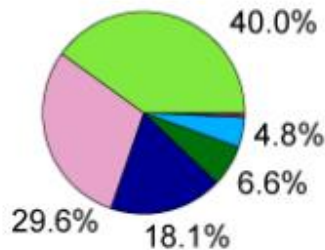
of the problems air pollution causes. Many scientists believe the major causes of global warming are manufacturers that release pollution into the atmosphere, and automobiles.

Global warming has its advantages and disadvantages. One advantage is that summer would last longer, which would boost the economy. People would take more vacations and have more time to do so. Other advantages are preserving energy and gas from burning heaters, and agricultural purposes. With warming weather come less sickness, more time to grow foods, and increased awareness of alternative energy. Because people are afraid of global warming, they are starting to exam the possibility of using wind and solar energy instead of fossil fuels. We want to become independent of oil from foreign countries. Some disadvantages are the weather, ocean will rise and flood low-lying areas, deserts will become dryer, there will be catastrophic storms, and food shortage. A possible solution is to regulate industries and car companies on the amount of pollution they are releasing into the atmosphere, to invest in green cars (electric) and clean energy, to create green homes by installing insulation, air tight windows and doors, and energy-saver appliances, and to stop deforestation, which will significantly lower the climatic temperature. There are many things we can do to try to prevent global warming; however, is that really what we want to do? As of now, some scientists believe that there is no imminent danger to humanity. The best approach is to continue studying and make it a priority to take care of the planet, regardless of whether global warming is manmade or not.

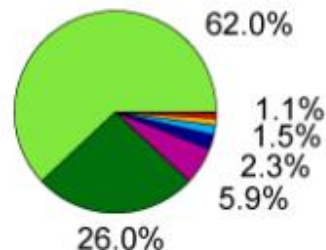
## Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector



**Carbon Dioxide**  
(72% of total)



**Methane**  
(18% of total)



**Nitrous Oxide**  
(9% of total)

This chart shows an estimated categorical breakdown of greenhouse gas emissions in percentages by sectors. It shows eight major sources, which are believed to cause global warming. Source: [http://www.gitint.com/sherlock\\_env2.html](http://www.gitint.com/sherlock_env2.html)

### LEGEND

Red – Energy Stations

Purple – Industries

Orange – Transportation

Lt Green – Agriculture

Pink – Fossil Fuel

Blue – Residential/Commercial

Dk. Green – Land use/Biomass burning

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