Global Climate Change Policy: The View From Here



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Global climate change

- The science
- The impacts
- The sources
- The politics
- Current action
- The Pew Center
- Next steps



Temperatures have increased... and are expected to continue to do so.

- Warming (1990-2100):
 3.4°-5.2° F (1.9°-2.9° C)
- Full-range:
 2.3°-7.2° F (1.3°-4.0° C)



felt.



Significant temperature change will be



WINTER (Dec-Jan-Feb)



Multiple impacts:

- Weather
- Agriculture
- Water
- Coastal
- Health
- Ecosystems
- Forestry
- Aquatic Ecosystems





Weather

- U.S. temperature increase greater than global average
- Fewer frosts
- Increased frequency of extremely hot days
- Changes in precipitation and extreme events



"The Science of Climate Change: Global and U.S. Perspectives" - Tom M.L. Wigley



Agriculture

- U.S. likely to continue to feed itself
- Regional impacts expected (decreased yields in south, increased in north)
- Shifts in livestock & crop production



"Agriculture & Global Climate Change: A Review of Impacts to U.S. Agricultural Resources" - Richard M. Adams, Brian H. Hurd, John Reilly



Water resources

- Availability affected
- Precipitation patterns will change
- Temperatures & demand will increase
- Runoff timing shifts
- Extreme events (floods, droughts) more common/extreme
- Water quality impacts





"Water & Global Climate Change: Potential Impacts on U.S. Water Resources" - Kenneth D. Frederick, Peter H. Gleick



Coastal/sea-level rise

- Sea-level rise: 9-42 cm by 2050; 23-96 cm by 2100
- Vulnerable areas: mid-Atlantic, south Atlantic, Gulf Coast, parts of New England & San Francisco



"Sea-Level Rise & Global Climate Change: A Review of Impacts to U.S. Coasts" - Jim Neumann, Gary Yohe, Robert Nicholls, Michelle Manion



Health

- Heat stress, storms, air pollution effects
- Vector-borne and water-borne diseases
- Climate variability & response of public health system important

"Human Health and Global Climate Change: A Review of Potential Impacts in the United States" - John M. Balbus and Mark L.Wilson To be released December 2000



Ecosystems

- Migration of plants and animals
- Loss of biodiversity and some ecosystems (cold areas, human-dominated landscape)
- Changes in ecosystem functioning (flow of material and energy, carbon storage, etc.)

"Ecosystems and Global Climate Change: A Review of Potential Impacts on U.S. Terrestrial Ecosystems and Biodiversity" - Jay R. Malcolm and Louis F Pitelka To be released December 2000



Factors to consider:

- Uncertainty in model predictions
- Beyond a doubling of CO₂ (change is dynamic)
- Upper end of warming range
- Possibility of non-linear/extreme events
- Low-probability/high-impact event
- Distributional & regional effects
- Adaptation/coping mechanisms
- Existing vulnerabilities
- Non-market impacts
- Domestic vs. international



Why is the temperature rising?

- Natural variability

- Human activities





"The balance of evidence suggests that there has been a discernible human influence on global climate."

-IPCC, 1996

The Sources







 Global BAU emissions from electric utilities 1990–18.2 MMTCE 2000–20.8 MMTCE 2010–25.3 MMTCE

 Global BAU Emissions from Mg production 1990–3.73 MMTCE 2000–5.73 MMTCE 2010–14.7 MMTCE

The groundwork for an international protocol

•1992—UNFCCC

 Parties (including U.S.) agree on voluntary actions to reduce GHG emissions (181 countries as of 10/00)

•December 1997—Kyoto Protocol

 Parties agree to binding limitations on GHGs for 38 developed countries and economies in transition

– Emissions trading, JI, CDM, basket of gases



Status of the Kyoto Protocol

- Not legally binding until ratified by 55 Parties to the Convention, including Annex I countries that account for at least 55% of the total CO₂ emissions in 1990
 - as of 10/00, 84 nations have signed, 29 ratified
- Major Issues:
 - Kyoto mechanisms
 - Compliance
 - Developing countries
 - "Sinks"



The challenges:

- How much at home?
- Who goes first?
- Skeptical scientists
- Economics
- Developing country participation
- U.S. government action stalled



Domestic policy proposals

• Legislative:

- Early action crediting/baseline protection
- Extending existing voluntary reporting programs
- Restricting government action "implementing" Kyoto Protocol
- Crediting sequestration activities
- Early carbon trading proposals



- New Jersey:
 - Reduce GHG emissions 3.5% below 1990 levels by 2005
- Iowa:
 - 10% of energy from renewable resources by 2015
- Oregon:
 - Passed legislation in 1997 requiring power plants to meet CO₂ emissions standards
- ICLEI:
 - Cities for Climate Protection—over 60 cities have joined



- United Kingdom:
 - Switching from coal to natural gas
 - 14% emissions reduction from 1990 to 2000
- Germany:
 - Voluntary action
 - Renewable energy
 - Eco-taxes
 - 17% emissions reduction from 1990 to 2000
- Australia:
 - Energy efficiency
 - Renewable energy
 - Government reduction and abatement programs



The Pew Center is creating a new "center" in the debate.

- BELC
- International
- Public policy

Analysis

- Environment
- Economics
- Policy
- Solutions

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approach and critical expertise to the global debate on climate change.	
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About the Pew Center	What's New
	Pew Center to host conference on early action,
Business Environmental Leadership Council	September 13-14 in Washington DC.
Projects and Reports	.: ► June 29, 1999 Study published by the Pew Center "The Science of
Media Center	Climate Change: Global and US Perspectives" details new information on climate change. To view and
	download the report click here, for the press release
	Anril 1999
	View results of recent poll on U.S. opinion leaders
	attitudes toward climate change conducted for the Pew Center on Global Climate Change.
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What we believe...

First, we accept the views of most scientists that enough is known about the science and environmental impacts of climate change for us to take actions to address its consequences.

Second, businesses can and should take concrete steps now in the U.S. and abroad to assess opportunities for emission reductions, establish and meet emission reduction objectives, and invest in new, more efficient products, practices, and technologies.

Third, the Kyoto agreement represents a first step in the international process, but more must be done both to implement the market-based mechanisms that were adopted in principle in Kyoto and to more fully involve the rest of the world in the solution.

Fourth, we can make significant progress in addressing climate change and sustaining economic growth in the U.S. by adopting reasonable policies, programs, and transition strategies.

The Pew Center



Company commitments





The emergence of the BELC has changed dynamic of debate.

- Media interest
- Buenos Aires/Bonn
- Political recognition
- Moderating influence in business debate





Next Steps

What is needed to address the issue?

A new industrial revolution

- New technologies
- New infrastructure
- Political will and leadership
 - Early action & other policy efforts
 - Transitional programs
 - Innovative approaches