



eChapter 2 Global Warming

The overwhelming majority of environmental and meteorological scientists agree that man-made factors are contributing to global warming during this century.

How Much Hotter?

Forecasts anticipate a rise in global temperature of from 1.44 to 6.3°F (0.8 to 3.5°C) by 2100 if no action is taken to cut down on the production of greenhouse gases, or a rise of from 1 to 3.6°F (0.5 to 2°C) even if action is taken (because of already released gases that will persist in the atmosphere). [\[source\]](#)

FACT: During the past 100 years, the average temperature has climbed about 1 degree Fahrenheit (0.6 of a degree Celsius) around the world. [\[source\]](#)

The effects of global warming may include:

- Millions of human refugees, from Florida to Bangladesh, as coastal land is flooded because of rising sea level.
- Millions of acres of lost habitat for plants and animals already stressed environmentally.
- Reduced food production worldwide, as the temperate weather zones shift away from traditional farmlands, toward polar regions.
- Disruption to local, regional, and global economies, as people and materials are diverted due to global-warming disasters.
- Increased damage caused by stronger storms, hurricanes, tornadoes, typhoons, etc.
- Devastating wildfires and forest fires.
- Die-offs as endangered species more rapidly move toward extinction.
- Political disruption as millions of people suffer.