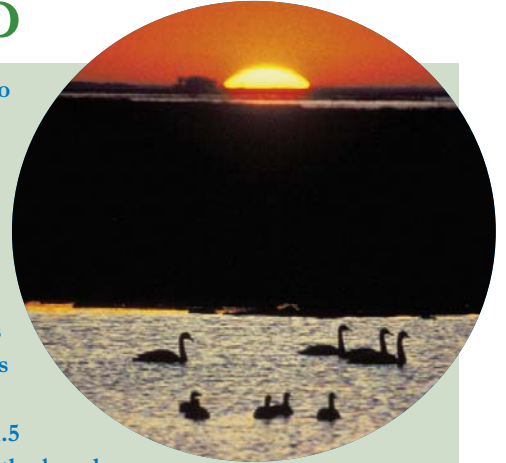




CHANGE THE FORECAST FOR WILDLIFE
SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

Global Warming and MARYLAND

From the estuaries and rivers that flow into the Chesapeake Bay to the Atlantic beaches that attract visitors year-round, water is one of Maryland's most valued natural resources. Global warming looms large on the state's horizon, as sea level rise threatens the state's 3,100 miles of shoreline. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates average temperatures in Maryland could rise about 3 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100 if global warming continues unabated. Water levels in the Chesapeake Bay are already rising twice as fast as the global average rate of sea level rise, inundating many of the bay's small islands. The EPA estimates that sea level in the bay could rise another 19 inches by 2100, threatening coastal habitat for the nearly 1.5 million shorebirds that pass through each spring, not to mention for the beach-goers who flock to the shores in the summer. We can solve global warming and revitalize our economy by rebuilding America with clean energy.



Global warming effects on Maryland wildlife

Maryland is home to an incredible diversity of native wildlife species, including 305 birds, 88 mammals, 89 fish, 46 reptiles and 40 amphibians. Rising temperatures and sea level in the state are changing the makeup of entire ecosystems, forcing wildlife to shift their ranges or adapt.

- The Chesapeake Bay historically has been an important waterfowl wintering ground, but sea level rise is changing the makeup of salt marshes, making them less attractive to ducks and geese. Projections for the region suggest sea level rise will further reduce shallow water waterfowl habitat.
- The breeding range of Maryland's state bird, the Baltimore oriole, could shift out of the state under certain global warming scenarios. At the very least, the number of nesting orioles within Maryland is likely to be reduced in the coming century.



- Since 1938, one-third of the marshes at the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge on the eastern shore of Maryland have been destroyed by sea level rise. Scientists expect the rest to disappear within the next 30 years, seriously impacting the habitat, for one of the largest concentrations of nesting bald eagles on the east coast north of

Nova Development Corp

Global Warming Pollution

Burning coal, gas and oil produces carbon dioxide, which is a greenhouse gas that warms the planet as it builds up in the atmosphere. Some of the carbon dioxide released today remains in the atmosphere after even 100 years, trapping more and more heat.

Since the mid-1800s, emissions of carbon dioxide have skyrocketed, causing global temperatures to rise by about 1° Fahrenheit in the last century. Earth has not experienced such a rapid change in temperature in thousands of years.

A Global Solution

The U.S. must lead the world by passing global warming legislation at home and working with other nations at the Copenhagen climate summit at the end of 2009 to sign a new climate treaty that keeps further warming below 2° Fahrenheit. With a global solution, we can avoid the worst impacts of global warming.



What's at stake for Marylanders?

Poplar Island, visited by Captain John Smith on his voyage up the Chesapeake in 1608 and made famous in the 1930s and 1940s as an exclusive retreat for presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman has all but disappeared thanks to sea level rise and erosion. It is only one example of what global warming has in store for Maryland's Chesapeake Bay islands.

- Ocean City underwent \$30 million in beach replenishment in the 1980s, but still could be threatened by sea level rise. The EPA estimates the cost to replenish Maryland's coastline from a 20-inch sea level rise by 2100 could be \$35-\$200 million.
- Smith Island, home to about 400 Marylanders and the subject of a recent documentary on global warming, is disappearing. Since 1850, Smith Island has lost 30 percent of its land mass to sea level rise and erosion, and unless fill is brought in, Smith Island will likely be submerged by the end of the century, displacing dozens of families.
- Loss of wildlife and habitat could mean a loss of tourism dollars. In 2006, more than 2.3 million people spent more than \$1.3 billion on hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing in Maryland. The industry in turn supported 38,878 jobs in the state.* (*Jobs are an average of 2001 and 2006 data.*)

“Global warming poses an overriding challenge to our responsibility to protect wildlife for our children’s future. We must advance balanced solutions that work for people, wildlife and the economy to overcome this challenge.”—

Larry Schweiger
President, CEO
National Wildlife Federation

GLOBAL WARMING NATIONAL POLICY SOLUTION:

A federal legislative solution can drive American ingenuity, create millions of green jobs, and restore America's global leadership on global warming. Legislation should:

- * Include ambitious targets to reduce America's global warming pollution as swiftly and deeply as possible. Scientists say that developed countries as a whole need to reduce their global warming pollution by at least 80% from 1990 levels by 2050 to avoid the worst impacts of global warming.
- * Move America toward a 100% clean electricity future by maximizing energy efficiency, modernizing the electric power grid, expanding power generation from renewable energy resources, and investing in clean transportation infrastructure.
- * Invest in natural resources. Forests, coasts, wetlands, clean air and clean water are already being impacted by global warming. Funding is needed to safeguard the natural resources that are critical to wildlife populations and human health.
- * Lead a worldwide effort to finance clean energy technology, forest conservation, and adaptation to unavoidable impacts of global warming.

For more information, visit: www.nwf.org/globalwarming.



NWF

Maryland's solutions to global warming

For the latest news on action opportunities in the Maryland area, you can join the Action Alert list of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) online at www.chesapeakeclimate.org

- Maryland provides a tax credit for commercial developers that meet certain energy-efficiency standards as well as one for the production and sale of electric power from biomass combustion.
- Maryland offers an excise tax exemption of up to \$2,000 for the purchase of new electric vehicles, and up to \$1,500 for new hybrid-electric vehicles. The state legislature is considering adopting California's low emission vehicle standards for new cars, light trucks and SUVs.

Following some simple guidelines, you can cut your global warming pollution, become more energy efficient and give something back to nature.

- **Plant shade trees:** The Department of Energy says planting three trees strategically around your home can reduce your annual heating and cooling costs by an average of 40 percent.
- **Convert to compact fluorescent bulbs:** If every household in America replaced its next burned out light bulb with a compact fluorescent, we would prevent more than 13 billion pounds of carbon dioxide from being emitted. That's the same as taking 1.2 million cars off the road for an entire year.
- **Become a Green Tag subscriber:** Many states now offer options for homeowners to buy electricity from clean, renewable sources such as wind, solar and biomass that produce little or no global warming pollution. Green energy can also be purchased through the National Wildlife Federation by visiting www.nwf.org/energy.
- **Act locally:** Contact your mayor and ask that (s)he sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, committing your city or town to meet or beat the global warming pollution reductions outlined in the Kyoto Protocol.

For more information, contact:

Julie Lalo
703-438-6084
LaloJ@nwf.org

