

Canada has ratified the Kyoto Protocol and is now requiring industries which emit large amounts of greenhouse gases to report their emissions annually to the Canadian government.



Seattle City Light and Puget Sound Energy have funds to assist their customers to conserve energy through the purchase of more efficient equipment such as efficient lights, motors and furnaces.



Climate Solutions, a local organization with offices in Seattle and Olympia is promoting the installation of renewable energy sources such as wind turbines and solar power in the Northwest Region.

What can you do?

You are the most important ingredient in the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and thereby reduce the effects of Climate Change.

- You can join the Mountaineers Conservation Division!
- Learn how to lobby law-making organizations for laws to increase renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Learn how forests remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it.
- Learn how to get involved with joint projects including the Club and other regional organizations.
- Take actions at your place of work or at home to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions.
- Help develop new Club programs to educate members about the value of forests in reducing emissions and becoming more energy efficient.
- Come up with your own ideas!

A climber's observation

"I have been climbing here in Washington for twenty-five years, not a long time in geologic terms. But in that time I have witness the retreat of the glaciers. Many routes I enjoyed 15 or 20 years ago no longer exist. The ice has melted! This isn't just happening here in Washington. Last year many traditional routes in the Alps were closed. The unusually warm summer was melting the ice that holds the mountains together and the resulting rock fall was an unacceptable hazard. If the retreat of the glaciers were merely a question of denying a playground to climbers it would be sad, but not a tragedy. However, the loss of glaciers means the loss of storage capacity for winter snows, to be slowly released in the summer. The ecological and economic impacts of changes of this magnitude to the hydrologic cycle are enormous."

Ed Henderson, Mountaineers Member & Climber

For more information

Visit our website at
www.mountaineers.org/conservation
for current issues and policies

To get involved
with The Mountaineers
on energy and climate
change, contact:

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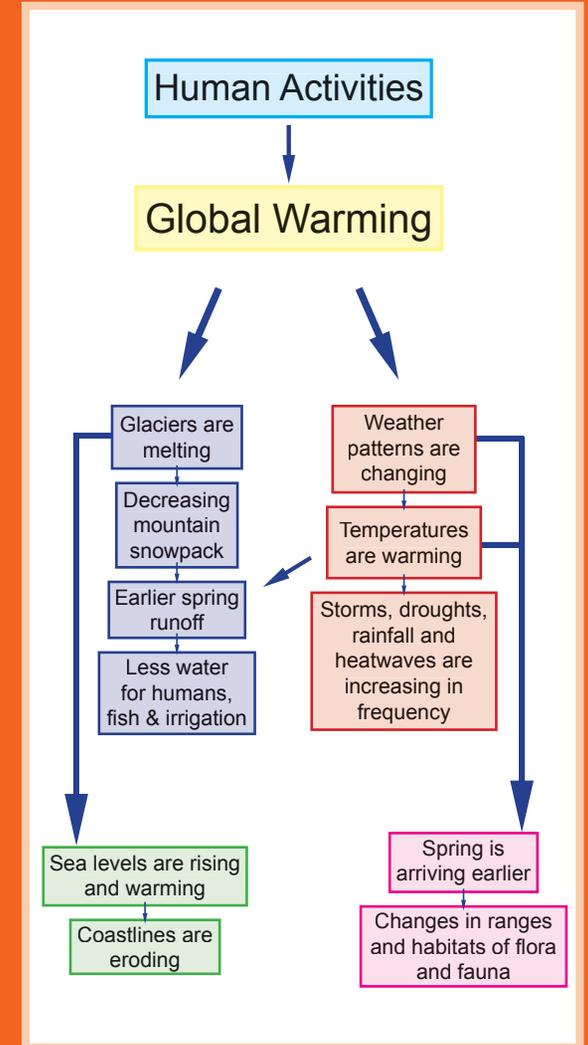
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 **The Mountaineers
Conservation Division**
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**Energy &
Climate Change**

Introduction

America, with 5% of the world's population, uses 25% of the world's energy! We consume 25% of the world's oil and yet we only have 3% of the world's petroleum reserves remaining. Energy use falls into two broad categories: Electrical Power and Transportation. The extraction, transportation, refining, production and use of energy have vast and negative environmental impacts, to say nothing of economic and national security implications. A major contributor to global warming –climate change –is believed to be the release of carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels for energy. At the local level we experience oil spills, pipeline explosions, air pollution, dammed rivers and superfund clean-up sites.

The Impacts on the Pacific Northwest

Hybrid autos emit less carbon dioxide (CO₂) - as much as 50% less. Hybrid vehicles average 48 miles per gallon versus 23 miles per gallon for the average mid-sized sedan.

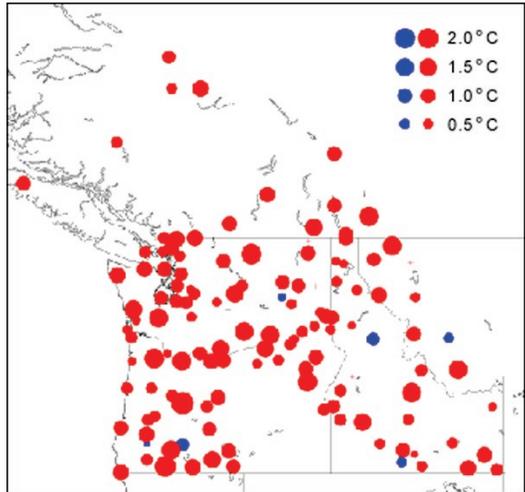
Population growth is a major force behind growing greenhouse gas emissions. In 2000, the world gained 77 million people.

The 1999 Seattle Greenhouse Gas Inventory showed that cars, trucks, planes, and other no-road diesel vehicles, emitted the largest sources of emissions for the City of Seattle that year.

Club members are seeing the glaciers shrink first hand as is evident by the August 2002 Mountaineer Magazine article titled, *Disappearing Glaciers – A Climbers-Eye View of a World Warming*.

What The Mountaineers are Doing

The Mountaineers has a strong policy statement reflecting the multiple causes and effects of climate change. At the present time it is quantifying the benefits of preserving old growth forests, which absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere and reduce total emissions. One acre of old growth forest can store 800 tons of CO₂ each year.



Courtesy of the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group (CIG).

UW scientists chart the recent history of temperature in the Pacific Northwest.

The picture above shows the rise in average temperature in the Northwest from 1920 to 2000. Increases are indicated with red dots, decreases with blue. The size of the dot corresponds to the magnitude of change.

The Mountaineers is very active promoting the preservation of other forested areas including the proposed Wild Sky Wilderness and an addition to Mount Rainier National Park on the Carbon River.

The Mountaineers were a founding member and remain active in the Northwest Energy Coalition (NWECC). The NWECC works for clean and affordable energy. The Coalition supports energy efficiency (use to be called conservation), renewable sources such as wind and geothermal and low-income assistance.

The Mountaineers, Climate Solutions and The Northwest Energy Coalition worked together with other organizations last winter to achieve the strictest requirements in the nation for new power plants to compensate for greenhouse gas emissions.

The Mountaineers works to influence the plans and policies of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the Northwest Power Planning Council (NPPCC) and local power providers.

The Mountaineers is on record as a policy supporting breaching of the four Lower Snake River dams in Southeastern Washington. We believe that breaching is the best and most economical means to restore endangered wild salmon runs.

The Mountaineers has long supported a mandatory increase in automobile gas mileage. This is the so-called **CAFÉ** standards, CAFÉ stands for **C**orporate **A**verage **F**leet **E**fficiency, the "fleet" being all the cars and light trucks in the country, SUV's included.

The Mountaineers has long opposed opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, ANWR, for oil drilling.

What NW Groups are Doing

Seattle City government has done a good job of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, by ending logging in the 85,000 forested acres of the Cedar River Watershed in 1995 and changing from coal-fired electric power to gas-fired power. In 2003 it won the EPA Climate Protection Award.

A report about Washington State's greenhouse gas emissions shows that transportation including trucks, cars and airplanes are the largest sources of greenhouse gases. (citation: WA State Dept. of Community, Trade and Economic Development, 2004: WA State's Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Sources and Trends)



Both the overall State emissions and the City of Seattle emissions (not including city government) are expected to rise considerably by the year 2010. (citation: Clean Air Agency: Estimated Greenhouse Gas emissions 1999-2010)

(Continued)