



National Latino Coalition
on Climate Change

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Latinos working together as a national voice to address all issues related to climate change and the environment.

Latinos & Global Warming

HOW LATINOS WILL BE AFFECTED AND HOW TO TAKE ACTION

THE DEBATE ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING IS OVER: SCIENTISTS AGREE THAT IT IS HAPPENING, THAT HUMANS ARE CAUSING IT, AND THAT WE ARE FEELING ITS EFFECTS ON OUR COMMUNITIES TODAY. ACCORDING TO THE SIERRA CLUB'S FIRST NATIONAL *LATINO SURVEY ON THE ENVIRONMENT*, LATINO VOTERS CONSIDER ENERGY AND GLOBAL WARMING TO BE "ONE OF THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS" FACING LATINO FAMILIES, ALONG WITH "POLLUTED AIR AND WATER."¹



WHAT IS GLOBAL WARMING?

Global warming is caused by the build up of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere, which form a sort of blanket over Earth, trapping in heat that would normally escape the atmosphere. The leading greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide, a pollutant emitted from the burning of fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and natural gas. There has always been some natural climate variability, but now record levels of carbon dioxide are having a far-reaching effect on our weather, sea levels, and climate.

GLOBAL WARMING AND LATINO COMMUNITIES

Global warming will leave no community untouched, and the increased drought conditions in some regions and flooding in others could induce crop failures, famines, and other environmental, economic, and social problems — including increased immigration due to displacement.

Global warming affects the health of Latino communities worldwide. The number one source of greenhouse gas pollution and harmful air pollutants is the burning of fossil fuels. According to the National Hispanic Environmental Council, Latinos have an increased risk of developing acute and chronic illnesses like asthma and other respiratory and pulmonary disease from exposure to air pollution because a disproportionate number of Latinos live in areas failing to meet one or more federal standards for clean air.²

Reducing our dependency on foreign energy sources and instead relying on clean, environmentally sustainable energy not only

protects our public health — but it also creates a green economy that will benefit Latino communities nationwide. Investing \$100 billion into developing a green economy will create two million jobs and reduce the unemployment rate significantly.³ Investment in renewable energy and a green economy will create nearly 800,000 new jobs in the construction and manufacturing sector alone.⁴

There is hope. We can reduce global warming pollution and strive for a healthier environment by forming innovative and collaborative relationships among government, labor, private industry, and the environmental movement. Scientists project that we can curb global warming and its consequences if we take bold, comprehensive action that will enable us to cut our carbon emissions while promoting economic growth through job creation via innovation and competition.

HELP STOP GLOBAL WARMING AND SAVE ENERGY!

We all must do our part to protect and preserve the planet for our children and future generations by building a cleaner, smarter and safer energy future.

By being smart consumers, using energy more efficiently, and investing in renewable energy sources, we can all be part of the solution:

- At home, replace old incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Turn down the temperature on your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit — it will save you as much as 50 percent on hot water costs!



- Weatherize your doors and windows.
- Make sure your car's tires are properly inflated in order to save gas and money.
- Bike or take public transportation when possible.
- When buying a new car or truck, consider a hybrid or look for a vehicle that gets the highest possible gas mileage and still meets your needs.

These same energy and money saving tips can also be used in your community in schools, offices, places of worship, and neighborhood centers.

NATIONAL SOLUTIONS

To effectively curb global warming, the U.S. must also implement comprehensive policy. Successful policy must set targets and timetables for reducing emissions that are based on scientific demands for curbing global warming to be sure its most dangerous impacts are avoided. A price must also be put on greenhouse gas pollution, and investments should be made in clean and

renewable energy such as solar, wind, and biomass. We also need policy to directly reduce air pollution.

Finally, comprehensive policy should set money aside to support workers, and assist low- and moderate-income households with rising energy costs, and it should provide adaptation assistance to vulnerable people and habitats in the U.S. and abroad.



TOGETHER, WE CAN DO IT!

By taking steps in local communities to use energy more efficiently, and by educating the public and our decision makers about comprehensive global warming policy, we can all be part of the solution. We can solve global warming while creating a clean energy economy and protecting working families and vulnerable communities around the world.

**FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN,
LET'S START TAKING ACTION TODAY.**

1 "National Survey of Hispanic Voters on Environmental Issues." Sergio Bendixen & Associates. 23 April 2008. <http://www.sierraclub.org/ecocentro/survey>

2 "Global Warming and Latinos." National Hispanic Environmental Council. 08 August 2008. <http://www.nheec.org/LatinoGWFactSheetwithReferences.pdf>

3 Pollin, Robert, Heidi Garret-Peltier, James Heintz, and Helen Scharber. "Green Recovery: A Program to Create Good jobs and Start Building a Low-Carbon Economy." Center for American Progress (CAP) and the University of Massachusetts Political Economy Research Institute (PERI). September 2008. http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/09/pdf/green_recovery.pdf

4 Pollin, Robert et al., "Green Recovery: A Program to Create Good jobs and Start Building a Low-Carbon Economy"



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