



IOWA CHAPTER

CLIMATE CHANGE FACTS 2019

THE SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS IS CERTAIN

- **200 prestigious scientific organizations worldwide, including NASA and NOAA, concur that human activity – primarily our use of fossil fuels – is altering the earth’s climate at an alarming rate. Not a single such organization disagrees** ¹.
- **The latest report by the International Panel on Climate Change** ²⁵ (IPCC 2018), says that we have only 12 years to avert a climate change catastrophe, and warns that urgent changes are needed to cut the risk of extreme heat, drought, floods and poverty.
- **The planet is warming dangerously:** Since 2001, the earth has experienced 16 of the 17 warmest years on record.² Both land¹⁶ and ocean ¹⁵ temperatures are rising.

THE GLOBAL CONSEQUENCES ARE SERIOUS³

- Droughts, floods, wildfires, extreme storms, life-threatening levels of heat¹⁷.
- Crop failures, food and water shortages, forced migration ¹⁸.
- Economic losses projected in the hundreds of billions per year ¹⁹.
- Rising sea levels ²⁰.
- The disruption of the food chain in the oceans ²¹.
- Increased range of deadly diseases ²².
- Global instability and threats of conflict²³.
- Disproportionate impact on vulnerable and disadvantaged populations ²⁴.

DANGERS FOR IOWA⁴

- Floods, droughts, extreme weather.
- Huge financial costs from a reduction of agricultural productivity, crop and livestock loss.
- Soil erosion, degraded water quality.
- The National Climate Assessment projects that the Midwest will see the nation’s largest increase in extreme temperature-related premature deaths ⁴.

ECONOMIC AND MORAL REASONS TO ACT

- The economic dislocations will be extreme. **The most expensive thing we can do in the face of climate change is nothing** ⁶. Moving boldly to a clean energy economy will actually save us money⁵.
- Unlike other disruptions – an earthquake or a volcano – we are not talking about a one-time disaster that we can recover from. We are talking about the descent into a permanent condition for the planet. This is why it has been called an existential threat to human civilization.
- Even though the very worst impacts may not be felt locally in Iowa, the global system is so interconnected that there is a **moral imperative** for all of us to act quickly.

SOLUTIONS ARE AVAILABLE

- Solar and wind projects are more affordable than ever before⁷. There is huge progress in energy storage⁹.
- Renewable energy offers Iowans good paying jobs ^{12,13} and brings tax revenue to rural counties ¹⁴.
- Iowa generates over 36% of its electricity from wind power⁸, ranking first in the nation. We should make our leadership role even stronger.

WE CALL ON OUR LEGISLATORS TO TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PASSING LEGISLATION THAT WILL REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS AND MAKE THE TRANSITION TO A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY

- Provide increased tax incentives for:
 - installing renewable energy
 - buying energy-efficient appliances
 - buying electric vehicles
 - installing charging stations
- Reverse legislation like SB 2311 that curtailed energy efficiency programs and the IUB's decision to penalize those who use solar
- Support SF 101 - Fuel-efficient motor vehicle use tax refund
- Provide incentives for utilities (including municipal utilities) to move quickly toward 100% renewables
- Add energy efficiency requirements for new building construction and provide tax relief for retrofitting existing buildings
- Co-sponsor and strongly support Sierra Club's proposed Act: "Establishing an Agriculture Climate Adaptation Advisory Council and creating an Agriculture Climate Adaptation Plan".
- Pass a resolution like HR 115 (from 2018 session) that commits Iowa to join the United States Climate Alliance which embraces the goals of the Paris Climate Accord.
- Join other states in taking a leadership role in averting the serious dangers that are coming fast. Over 100 U.S. cities ¹⁰, 2 states and the District of Columbia have committed to moving to 100% renewable energy.

IOWANS WANT ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

A 2018 study by Yale University ¹¹ that surveyed Iowans found:

- 65% think climate change is happening
- 82% support tax rebates for electric vehicles or solar panels
- 58% think congress should do more about global warming
- 70% think environmental protection is more important than economic growth

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