



- Home
- Green 101
- Green Voices
- Get Informed
- Get Involved
- Eat Local
- Get Outdoors



Comment, blog & share photos  
Log in | Become a member

## Global warming's effects already felt

REPORT WARNS OF LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES

By JULIET EILPERIN • *The Washington Post* • May 28, 2008

- Post a Comment
- Recommend
- Print this page
- E-mail this article

SHARE THIS ARTICLE: [Del.icio.us](#) [Facebook](#) [Digg](#) [Reddit](#) [Newsvine](#) [What's this?](#)

**WASHINGTON** — Global warming is already affecting the nation's forests, water resources, farmland and wildlife and will have serious negative consequences over the next 25 to 50 years, according to a report issued Tuesday by the federal government.

The scientific assessment by the U.S. Climate Change Science Program provides the most detailed look in nearly eight years at how climate change is reshaping the American landscape. The report, which synthesizes a thousand scientific papers, highlights how human-generated carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels have already translated into more frequent forest fires, reduced snowpack and increased drought.

ADVERTISEMENT Anthony Janetos, one of the lead authors, said the document aims to inform federal resource managers and dispel the public's perception that global warming will only be felt years from now.

"They imagine all these ecological impacts are in some distant future," said Janetos, who noted that many animals and plants have shifted their migratory and blooming patterns to reflect recent changes in temperature. "They're not in some distant future. We're experiencing them now."

The document concludes that Americans must face the fact that many of these changes are locked in even if the country takes significant steps to cut emissions in the coming decades.

"Climate change is currently impacting the nation's ecosystems and services in significant ways, and those alterations are very likely to accelerate in the future, in some cases dramatically," the report says. "Even under the most optimist CO2 emission scenarios, important changes in sea level, regional and super-regional temperatures and precipitation patterns will have profound effects."

### In your voice

Read reactions to this story

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)

Submit

#### Related news from the Web

[Global Warming](#)

Powered by [Topix.net](#)

#### More Tennessee Green headlines

[Gas prices encourage pedal power in commutes](#) [Read Comments\(5\)](#)

[Swiss Chard Gratin](#) [Post a Comment](#)

[Does an environmentally friendly lawnmower exist?](#) [Post a Comment](#)

[Hybrids will join MTA's bus fleet](#) [Post a Comment](#)

[Tennessee gobbles up energy](#) [Read Comments\(13\)](#)

#### Latest headlines

[Eddie George among new Fisk trustees](#) [Post a Comment](#)

[1 arrested, 1 sought in dragging of policeman](#) [Post a Comment](#)

[Police arrest mother for biting baby](#) [Read Comments\(1\)](#)

[2 home invaders sought](#) [Read Comments\(2\)](#)



Partners: [Jobs: CareerBuilder.com](#) [Cars: Cars.com](#) [Apartments: Apartments.com](#) [Shopping: ShopLocal.com](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Communities](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Sports](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Moms](#) | [Life](#) | [Voices & Views](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Customer Service](#) | [Site Map](#)

[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Subscribe](#)

Copyright © 2008 The Tennessean. All rights reserved