

## More Information

For more information on climate change, try these websites:

<http://www4.nau.edu/tribalclimatechange/>

<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/>

<http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/>

<http://climate.nasa.gov/kids/index.cfm>

<http://www.unep.org/climatechange/Introduction.aspx>

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/climate/>

<http://www.nrdc.org/globalwarming/>

## Any Questions or Concerns?

**Contact the Tribal  
Environmental Office at  
951.654.5544  
Ext. 4129/4130**



EST. JUNE 19, 1883

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## Climate Change

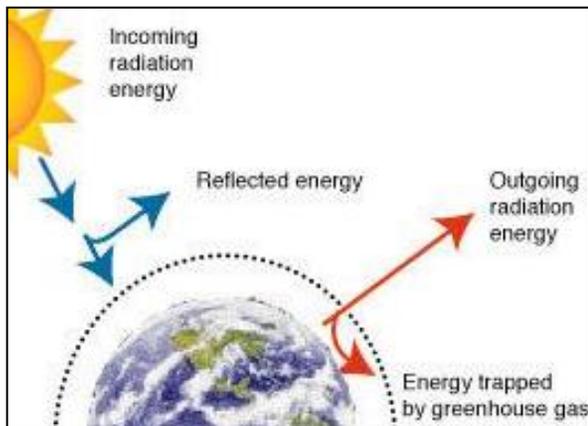


**What does it really  
mean?**

**Soboba Tribal  
Environmental Department  
951.654.5544 ext. 4129/4130**

## Climate Change Basics

Climate change is the changing of long term weather patterns from historical norms. For over the past 200 years, the burning of fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, and deforestation have caused the concentrations of these heat-trapping GHGs to increase significantly in our atmosphere. These gases prevent heat from escaping to space, somewhat like the glass panels of a greenhouse. These gases are natural and are necessary to life as we know it, because they keep the planet's surface warmer than it otherwise would be. But the problem results from the concentrations of these gases continuing to increase in the atmosphere. According to NOAA and NASA data, the Earth's average surface temperature has increased by about 1.2 to 1.4°F in the last 100 years. Most of the warming in recent decades is very likely the result of human activities. Other aspects of the climate are also changing such as rainfall patterns, snow and ice cover, and sea level.



## Climate Change Effects



If greenhouse gases continue to increase, models predict that the average temperature at the Earth's surface could increase from 3.2 to 7.2°F above 1990 levels by the end of this century. Scientists are certain that human activities are changing the composition of the atmosphere, but they are not sure by how much it will change, at what rate it will change, or what the exact effects will be. Effects that have already occurred include sea level rise, shrinking glaciers, changes in the range and distribution of plants and animals, trees blooming earlier, lengthening of growing seasons, ice on rivers and lakes freezing later and breaking up earlier, and thawing of permafrost. Another key issue being studied is how societies and the Earth's environment will adapt to or cope with climate change. It remains very difficult to predict which parts of the country will become wetter or drier, but scientists generally expect increased precipitation and evaporation, and drier soil in the middle parts of the country. Northern regions such as Alaska are expected to experience the most warming.

## What Climate Change Means For You

Climate change not only changes the long term weather patterns, but it can also lead to a significant change in the weather areas experience day to day and seasonally. Climate change may be the cause of increasing "extreme" weather events such as tornadoes, hurricanes, and snow storms. Precipitation types and amounts will likely be different than in the past. Areas that tend to have little rain will become drier and drought will be more severe. Rainfall may occur at different times of the year or in large storms that make flooding a large concern. The amount of snow in mountains is likely to decrease which leads to less snowpack and water storage throughout the year. Stress may be put on food producers by changing where produce and grains grow best. This could result shortages of certain foods.

### Arctic Sea Ice

