

# CLIMATE ACTION FACTSHEET



**FAST FACTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE** Scientific evidence concludes global warming and climate change are happening now. There is overwhelming scientific agreement on human-caused global warming. More than 97% of publishing scientists and a synthesis of peer reviewed studies confirm this scientific fact. Virtually all national and international science academies and societies have issued statements or assessments affirming human’s role in recent climate change. This includes the academies of science from 80 countries. No scientific body in the U.S. or internationally formally dissents from this consensus.

## THE SCIENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

- Greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, methane and water vapor, trap heat in the Earth’s atmosphere and warm the planet. [LINK](#)
- The greenhouse effect is an increase in the average temperature of the Earth. Without greenhouse gases, the temperature on Earth would be too cold to support life. With too many greenhouse gases, it would heat up beyond survivable levels. [LINK](#)
- Since 1958, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has been measured from an observatory on Mauna Loa, a volcano in Hawaii. [LINK](#)
- The pre-industrial concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was 280 parts per million (ppm). As of December 2016, 404.93 ppm.
- The amount of carbon dioxide is higher than at any time in the last 800,000 years. And the Earth’s average temperature is increasing at a concerning rate. [LINK](#)
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projects that global temperatures are expected to be within the range of 0.5°F to 8.6°F by 2100, with a likely increase of at least 2.7°F, in the 21st century. [LINK](#)

## RISING TO THE MOMENT | CONGRESSIONAL CLIMATE OPPORTUNITIES

The 117<sup>th</sup> Congress and the Biden Administration have a unique opportunity to unite the nation around measures that put Americans back to work building a stronger, more resilient, and more equitable future – through transformative, climate-smart investments in our nation’s infrastructure.

Infrastructure investments are an opportunity to reduce carbon emissions, create jobs, and conserve and restore the natural systems that provide essential services for people and wildlife. These investments are crucial to maintaining and restoring healthy ecosystems that are on the front lines of protecting communities from accelerating climate impacts, providing abundant and clean water, and growing the economy.

We need Congress, including Indiana Senators Braun and Young, to pass robust infrastructure legislation that includes traditional infrastructure priorities – in things like our roads and bridges – as well as critical investments in nature and clean energy, industry, and transportation that will have benefits to wildlife, communities of all kinds, and the climate. The needs on all of these fronts are great, so the solutions much match the scale of those needs.

## CONGRESSIONAL CLIMATE OPPORTUNITIES | NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Natural climate solutions are critical to the success of any climate change policy, and must be part of any infrastructure package. Natural climate solutions are strategies that support the ability of natural systems to mitigate climate change, and strategies that increase the resilience of populations to climate impacts.

In addition to fighting climate change, they provide numerous benefits to humans, wildlife and our environment. They can improve the quality of wildlife habitat and create economic opportunity through the reclamation, restoration, and maintenance of carbon stocks. They can also enhance the health of our soils and conserve forests, watersheds, grasslands, farmlands, and more — while reducing emissions and boosting the resilience of communities across America.

Optimizing the potential for land to store carbon — while building community resilience — requires a massive investment in jobs to deliver the necessary restoration of forests, wetlands, mined lands, and more. These jobs tend to be durable and concentrated in rural or semi-rural areas in need of employment opportunity and investment.

- Conservation investments generate more jobs compared to other alternatives, because most of the investment goes into labor, rather than materials.
- Restoration implementation [supports a \\$25 billion](#) "restoration economy" that directly employs 126,000 people and supports 95,000 other jobs, mostly in small businesses.
- The Department of the Interior's FY2010 investment of \$156 million for ecosystem restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes, and Everglades supported [more than 3,200 jobs](#) and contributed more than \$427 million in economic outputs.
- [A 2015 review](#) of local and state-level privately funded restoration efforts, as well as state and federal programs that fund restoration, found that the restoration industry in the U.S. can support up to 33 jobs for every million invested.

### U.S. SENATORS FOR INDIANA

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