



Rural Areas
in a Changing
Climate



Science
You Can
Use!

Rural Areas in a Changing Climate

Why Should You Care About Rural Areas in a Changing Climate?

Rural counties tend to be poorer than urban counties. Rural counties also have higher unemployment, lower educational attainment, fewer highly skilled jobs, and a greater dependency on government funds. Because of the socioeconomic challenges rural areas face, these areas may be vulnerable to climate change in ways that urban areas are not vulnerable. For example, rural areas are expected to experience more negative impacts from the change in agriculture due to climate change than urban areas experience. Changes in agriculture, however, affect people in urban areas as well as rural areas.

Did You Know?

General climate models (GCMs) are computer models that allow scientists to predict future changes in climate. These models use mathematical equations to simulate the interactions of things like water, atmosphere, land surfaces, ice, and population estimates. These equations are then run through computers and interpreted by scientists.

What Are Scientists Doing to Help?

Scientists use GCMs to predict what might happen in rural areas under a changing climate. In particular, scientists predict what might happen to rural areas' economies, culture, and human health. Scientists have discovered that some of the predicted impacts can be reduced through planning for predicted change. For example, some agricultural crops will become unsuitable for an area while new ones will be better suited to a new climate.

Take Action!

Learn about predicted changes due to climate change by visiting <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/impacts-adaptation/society.html> and <http://climate.nasa.gov/index>.

Read the *Natural Inquirer* Southern United States Climate Change edition by visiting <http://www.naturalinquirer.org>.

Do your part to reduce fossil fuel emissions. Walk, ride your bike, and carpool.



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