

## The Issue at a Glance

In 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) made clear that human activity is causing global warming. Its more than 3,700 scientists expressed concern that we are pumping more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than ever before. They predict that warming will bring more droughts, heat waves, melting ice, and rising sea levels, adversely affecting life and economies around the world.

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“We have a historic opportunity to move the United States out of the dark ages on climate change,” says Dr. Stephen H. Schneider, professor of biological sciences and co-director of the Center for Environmental Science and Policy at Stanford University. “Things are going to be very different under a new administration in Washington, D.C. But we’re not there yet. It will require continued vigilance to make sure good bills are passed. UCS has been out in front for a long time on this issue. It’s the great honest broker that can make sure there is no backroom chicanery,” says Dr. Schneider.



## The Challenge

Global warming is the defining issue of the 21st century, with potentially catastrophic consequences for human health, the environment, and the security of the world. UCS research demonstrates that action must be taken now to avoid the worst consequences of global warming. The next five years provide a crucial window of opportunity to leverage recent advances in the scientific understanding of climate change to help broaden and deepen support for solutions at the state, regional, and national levels.

To learn more about climate change science and solutions, visit the Global Warming section of the UCS website at [www.ucsusa.org](http://www.ucsusa.org).

## UCS Solutions

- » Make the case for establishing a bold long-term goal for deep reductions in U.S. global warming emissions.
- » Convince the federal government to adopt national legislation to achieve needed emissions reductions and re-engage U.S. leadership to establish strong international action to reduce emissions of heat-trapping gases.
- » Secure strong carbon market financing to slow tropical deforestation (which constitutes some 20 to 25 percent of global carbon emissions) in international climate policies.
- » Enact policies at the state and federal levels to increase renewable energy's share of energy use substantially, while significantly increasing energy efficiency in homes, businesses, industry, and electricity generation.
- » Advocate for increased efficiency of cars and trucks, and inform sound science-based policies for sustainable development of alternative fuels.

## UCS Leadership

- » UCS Director of Science and Policy Peter Frumhoff and UCS Board members Mario Molina and James McCarthy have served on the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Their guidance ensures that UCS provides decision makers with rigorous, policy-relevant analyses.
- » UCS pioneered the market-driven concept of a renewable electricity standard (RES), a measure that requires a certain percentage of a state's electricity supply comes from renewable energy. To date, 26 states and Washington, D.C., have an RES in place.
- » UCS has issued influential reports on the regional impacts of global warming in California, the Gulf Coast, the Great Lakes, and the Northeast. These studies have been used in the regions to provide the scientific basis for state and regional policies to address climate change. The California report was a key factor in the passage of landmark legislation to curb global warming in that state, setting a valuable precedent for other states and the federal government.

