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CURTAILING GLOBAL WARMING

A changing climate means a changing environment for both people and wildlife. In addition to documenting the effects climate change will have on wildlife and outdoor recreation, the League has been a leader in the fight to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

IMPACTS

Global warming is caused when greenhouse gases build up in the atmosphere and trap heat. The leading greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide. According to the Department of Energy, the United States produces nearly one quarter of all carbon dioxide emitted into the world's atmosphere—most of which comes from burning coal, oil, and natural gas, from sources such as vehicles, industry, and power plants.

Global warming is already beginning to have negative effects on fish and wildlife in the United States, especially on species of interest to hunters and anglers. In recent reports focusing on five states—Maryland, New York, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Colorado—the League found urgent threats to coldwater fish, waterfowl, migratory big game, and other species that require specific temperatures or seasonal patterns to survive. Working with other fish and wildlife conservation groups, we are raising awareness of these threats among the hunting and angling community through publications, Web sites, and the media.

SOLUTIONS

To reduce the amount of greenhouse gases the United States emits into the atmosphere, the League is working to advance state, regional, and national solutions.

On the state level, we helped introduce legislation in Minnesota that will create an economy-wide climate change action plan, limit carbon dioxide emissions from new power plants, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from homes, businesses, land use, and vehicles. We are also fighting to stop the construction of a new coal-fired power plant along the Minnesota-South Dakota border that, if built, would double the amount of global warming pollution from coal in South Dakota, producing as much carbon dioxide as all the cars, trucks, and trains in the state combined.

Regionally, we are working with governors from six Midwestern states and the Canadian province of Manitoba to develop a regional plan to address global warming by creating a cap-and-trade system. Such a system would cap emissions at reduced levels and allow trading to achieve those emissions reductions at a lower cost.

On the national level, the League has supported legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Although legislative efforts stalled in 2008, there is significant momentum and a growing sense of urgency in Congress and among Americans to curtail global warming.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ENERGY PROGRAM

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