

Climate Change: A Real Threat for Oklahoma

There is a growing consensus that we need action on climate change. While we can quibble about the number of degrees or inches predicted in various studies, the overall evidence is clear. The U.S. Global Change Research Program, established by Congress in 1990, is required to submit an assessment to the President and the Congress every four years. This report is the National Climate Assessment (NCA), and you can read it online.¹ It draws several conclusions.

- Thousands of studies conducted by researchers around the world have documented changes in surface, atmospheric, and oceanic temperatures; melting glaciers; diminishing snow cover; shrinking sea ice; rising sea levels; ocean acidification; and increasing atmospheric water vapor.
- The incidence of large forest fires in the western U.S. and Alaska has increased since the early 1980s.
- Human activities, especially emissions of greenhouse gases, are extremely likely (95%-100%) to be the dominant cause of the observed warming.

According to the Oklahoma Climatological Survey,² the implications for Oklahoma are significant.

- Drought frequency and severity will increase.
- Drier and warmer conditions will increase the risk of wildfires.
- Rain-free periods will lengthen, but individual rainfall events will become more intense.
- More runoff and flash flooding will occur.

We have lost valuable time by pretending that there is no problem. Our elected officials have denied the evidence while the situation has deteriorated and our options for fixing it have been reduced.

You know from personal experience that ignoring problems does not fix them; it only makes them worse. Our community must face the challenges of climate change openly and honestly. Here is what we need:

- the best scientific information, including support for research in Oklahoma and around the country
- leadership willing to speak truthfully about the issues
- courage to make difficult choices
- commitment to resolving the problems.

This is not about creating winners and losers. We need to take positive steps to fix the problem without undue burden to local families and businesses. Let's make Oklahoma a leader in climate change solutions by taking steps to increase research, develop renewable energy, and improve our environment.

Together, we can ensure a better future for our children. I am a third-generation Oklahoman with deep ties to the community and its people. I respectfully and humbly ask for your vote in November.³
Frankie Robbins, Democratic candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, OK-3.

¹ <https://science2017.globalchange.gov/chapter/executive-summary/>

² Oklahoma Climatological Survey, Statement on Climate Change and Its Implications for Oklahoma, http://water.okstate.edu/documents/external/OCS_climate_statement.pdf

³ <http://robbinsforoklahoma.com/index.html>