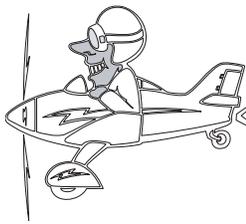


Climate: Changes in the Future



No one can predict the future....

"Heavier
than air flying machines
are impossible."

Lord Kelvin,
renowned physicist,
1895

... **but** the results of many scientific studies do suggest that there may be some serious consequences if we don't do something to deal with climate change. In some places these changes might not seem so bad - the overall weather might be warmer and people might be able to grow certain kinds of food that it was too cold to grow there before.

Extreme weather

It is possible that extreme weather events such as droughts, winter storms, tornados, and hurricanes will increase in number and some of them may be stronger than normal.

Farms and Food Supply

The stress placed on the environment by climate change could result in changes in our ability to grow certain crops.

Affect Human Health

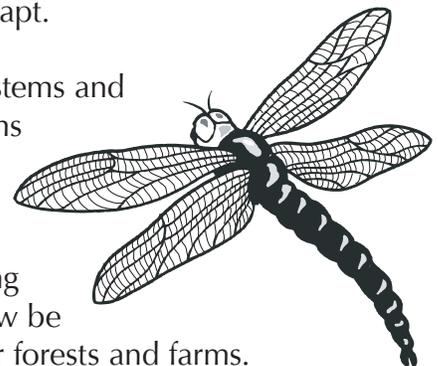
Climate change can affect human health in different ways. Increased heat can cause heat stress and heat-related health problems, while increased ultra-violet radiation can result in many serious problems including cancer. Indirectly, air pollution, changes in food and water supplies and extreme weather events (flooding and storms) can all affect our health.

Other changes are much more serious:

Ecosystems and Habitats

All natural systems have evolved over time and depend on a delicate balance of rain, temperature and other features. Rapid changes can throw these systems out of balance and these changes may happen too fast for the animals and plants to adapt.

Changes in forest ecosystems and increased lightning storms could result in more forest fires. Diseases and pests, normally held in check by our long winter season, might now be better able to invade our forests and farms.



Water

As the world heats up glaciers and the polar ice caps melt and, as they do, more water is added to the oceans. The increased water may cause more flooding and erosion, especially in coastal areas. Warmer weather and other environmental problems might affect the quality of our drinking water and, in some places, even how much water is available to us.

reprinted with permission from:

"Hop To It: Small Steps For Dealing With Big Climate Change Activity Book"

© 2001 Merebeth Switzer & Design Alpha