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December 15, 2005

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Columbus Data Included
**2005 DECLARED 2nd HOTTEST YEAR IN MORE
THAN A CENTURY**
**CLIMATE CHANGE EXPERTS
POINT OUT OHIO VULNERABILITY AND
OPPORTUNITIES**

Columbus, Ohio – Global warming advocates today released their analysis of temperature trends from local weather stations, at the same time that the U.N.'s World Meteorological Organization announced that 2005 was officially the 2ND hottest year on record worldwide.

Every year, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) releases its "Annual Statement on the Status of the Global Climate". This year, the WMO has declared 2005 to be the 2nd hottest year on record since reliable records were first kept about 150 years ago and the warmest ever in the northern hemisphere.

With the WMO's announcement, the 10 hottest years on record have all occurred since 1990. (See chart below). For more information about these global findings, see

<http://www.wmo.ch/web/wcp/wcdmp/statement/html/statement.html>

"We can now see that global temperatures were significantly higher in 2005 than the historic average, which is part of a global trend," said David R. Celebrezze, Outreach Coordinator at the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC). "The bad news is Ohio is the 2nd largest emitter of carbon dioxide per capita which contributes to global warming pollution. The good news is Ohio is primed through its manufacturing history to be the technology and innovation leader in climate change pollution technologies." For discussion of Ohio's potential to be an economic leader contact OEC for the Ohio Climate Road Map Part 1 report.

Potential impacts of global warming in our region are:

- Decrease in Lake Erie's water levels affecting nature and the economy
- More invasive species competing with native species
- Degradation of wetlands flood-absorbing capacity
- Increased extreme heat and precipitation events leading to more floods and droughts

Practical Solutions are available:

- Energy efficient state buildings and schools
- Adopt a renewable energy portfolio standard
- Invest in dollar and energy saving efficiency
- Ohio should continue to expand its efforts to promote biofuels, hydrogen fuel cells, and more fuel efficient vehicles.

- The state government should increase investment in technology innovation through programs like the Third Frontier.

“Global warming is already happening. Our response is a matter of justice since global warming will have the greatest impact on the health and lives of the poor and disadvantaged in our own State and throughout the globe”, said Marianist Sister Leanne Jablonski, who coordinates the Ohio Interfaith Climate and Energy Campaign.

“With Ohio’s legacy in technology innovation, environmental education and prudence, we have a responsibility to act now to reduce our global warming impacts and ensure the protection of all life. As people of faith, we are taking action for responsible energy stewardship by educating ourselves, reducing our consumption, and promoting energy and resource conservation in our homes and religious institutions, and in the vehicles we drive.”

“We are calling upon Congress to ensure there are policies to conserve our energy resources and protect the environment for future generations”, said Sr. Jablonski. “With one of the hottest years on record behind us, it is time to look forward to a new year and a new opportunity to act. That is why we are urging Ohio Senators to work with their colleagues to support and advance federal policies that will prevent irreversible harm to our health, economy and climate with mandatory policies on enforceable deadlines.”

Columbus data

Maximum Temperature:

Here in Ohio, we are seeing temperature trends that reflect the global warming trend. At the Port Columbus, the average maximum temperature for the first 11 months of 2005 was 65 degrees, compared to the baseline average for the site, which is 63.3 degrees. So, this year’s maximum average is 1.7 degrees higher than the historical baseline. Put another way, the average maximum temperature measured at Port Columbus was 2.7% higher than the historical baseline.

Minimum Temperature

Here in Ohio, we are seeing temperature trends that reflect the global warming trend. At the Port Columbus, the average minimum temperature for the first 11 months of 2005 was 46.4 degrees, compared to the baseline average for the site, which is 43.3 degrees. So, this year’s minimum average is 3.1 degrees higher than the historical baseline. Put another way, the average minimum temperature measured at Port Columbus was 7.2% higher than the historical baseline.

The Clear the Air data is intended to help compare local experience to the global warming trend. The data is not intended to “prove” global warming – it is far too small a data set for that. Rather, it gives a sense of how local temperature trends fit into a warming world.

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10 Hottest Years on Record

| Year | Degrees F above average (1961-1990) |
|------|--|
| 1998 | 0.57 |
| 2005 | 0.48 (Nov) |
| 2003 | 0.46 |
| 2002 | 0.46 |
| 2004 | 0.44 |
| 2001 | 0.41 |

| | |
|------|------|
| 1997 | 0.40 |
| 1995 | 0.36 |
| 1999 | 0.33 |
| 1990 | 0.30 |

The WMO website where the statement is expected to be posted is <http://www.wmo.ch/web/wcp/wcdmp/statement/html/statement.html>.

The Ohio Environmental Council (www.theOEC.org) is a statewide network of more than 100 state and local conservation groups.

Clear the Air (www.cleartheair.org) is a national public education campaign to improve air quality by reducing emissions from coal-burning power plants.

To get statewide historical annual mean temp, with trendline:

<http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/cag3/state.html>

- 1) Click on your state. You'll get a state page with some text comparing this month to previous years, as well as a box at the bottom where you can enter the info to make a chart.
- 2) Set "Period" to Annual. Make sure your "Data Type" is Mean Temperature (same as average temp).
- 3) You can choose output in line chart format or data table. Try them both!

Also, here is NCDC's in progress 2005 Climate Report page, which it looks like they may update on the 15th: <http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/2005/perspectives.html>

Helpful Sources on the Impacts of Global Warming:

Pew Center on Global Climate Change

http://www.pewclimate.org/global-warming-in-depth/environmental_impacts/reports/

The Pew Center on Global Climate Change brings together business leaders, policy makers, scientists to highlight impacts of global warming, as well as business and governmental responses to it.

Union of Concerned Scientists

www.ucsusa.org/greatlakes

UCS offers a number of documents on the impacts of global warming, including their own research into Great Lakes Regional impacts in various parts of the United States.

Natural Resources Defense Council

<http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/fcons.asp>

NRDC provides a great summary of the major consequences of global warming for the United States.

Environmental Defense

<http://www.environmentaldefense.org/system/templates/page/issue.cfm?subnav=12>

Along with several other great resources, this page includes discussions of expected global warming impacts on Washington DC, New York, Los Angeles, New England's White Mountains, and North Carolina.

The Weather Channel

<http://www.weather.com/multimedia/index.html?collection=videocoll3>

Five-part video series on the impacts of global warming in Alaska, available for viewing online.

The Heat is Online

www.heatisonline.org

Privately maintained by veteran journalist and author Ross Gelbspan, this site is a treasure trove of current information, particularly recent scientific findings and regular updates on extreme weather events from around the world.

Climate Change Expert

Dr. Lonnie Thompson is the international pioneer in acquisition and interpretation of tropical and subtropical ice core histories. In short, he is the world's expert in deciphering clues to ancient climate trapped inside ice from some of the Earth's harshest environments. He has led 35 expeditions to remote ice caps in Peru, Bolivia, China, Antarctica, Russia, Kenya and other regions. He has authored, or co-authored, 109 papers published in refereed journals, including 10 in the prestigious journal Science. In addition, his predictions about the growing impact of global warming have been sought by the U.S. Congress, the vice president, and colleagues around the world. Earlier this year, he predicted that within 15 years, massive mountainous ice caps and glaciers around the world would melt because of global warming. For his groundbreaking research into the problem, Thompson was named one of America's best scientists by Time magazine and the Cable News Network.

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Bio taken from The Ohio State University website (<http://www.osu.edu/dosomethinggreat/thompson.html>)