

Updated: August 14, 2020



Core Climate Change Statement
for Use by
LNRP Partner Organizations
October 29, 2019



For decades, climate scientists have been telling us that we will face an immense environmental emergency. Their warnings have been largely ignored. **Now we are in that crisis.**

Our climate is changing rapidly as a result of heat-trapping gases released into our atmosphere and oceans. Glaciers are melting, sea levels are rising, extreme storms and droughts are happening more often with devastating consequences, and habitats for a wide variety of plants, animals and insects essential to the earth's ecological balance are being threatened. Human health, safety and security are at risk.

More than 97% of the scientists who study climate agree that global warming is real and is being driven by human activity. Carbon dioxide released by burning fossil fuels for electricity, heating, transportation and industrial processes is the largest contributor. Among other sources, land use practices, including raising cattle, overuse of fertilizers and deforestation are major contributors. Unchecked population growth will magnify the challenge we face.

The bottom line is that there is no question that climate change is happening and the window of opportunity to take action is narrowing rapidly. Everyone will be affected and we are all responsible. Immediate and aggressive action is essential to protect human health, biodiversity, and international security.

We owe it to our children and grandchildren. As Americans make up only 5% of the world's population but are responsible for 25% of the emissions causing global warming, we have a moral obligation to lead.

While we can't stop average temperatures from continuing to rise as a result of past emissions, we can significantly reduce the devastating increases we face if we fail to act. **Business as usual spells disaster.** We have the means to act responsibly. We need the political and personal will.

We can convert to renewable energy to produce electricity, heat our buildings and power our cars and trucks. We can reduce world-wide population growth through education and making family planning available and free. We can adopt much healthier plant rich diets, plant millions of trees, drive less and farm smarter. If we do all this, we will not only reduce climate change, we will be healthier and save money.

- **Act now personally and as a community**
- **Lead by example!**
- **Talk to your neighbors, family, friends!**
- **Demand climate leadership at all political levels!**
- **Vote!**