Global Warming

Global warming is a trend that has been occurring for the last 150 years. Average global temperatures have increased .7 degrees Celsius over the last 100 years. Carbon Dioxide from burning fossil fuels contributes a great deal to this dilemma. Deforestation also causes a rise in carbon dioxide levels because the trees are not consuming the co2 and producing oxygen. If this trend continues our planet could see severe consequences, such as an ice age or melting polar ice caps.

Evidence of global warming exists in many formats. Our ocean’s surface temperatures have been steadily rising, because the ocean soaks up about 80 percent of this excess heat. Even at depths of 3000 meters there is evidence that the temperatures have risen. When the ocean seawater temperature rises it expands. If global warming continues we could see more melting of the polar ice caps, which could cause us to lose a lot of our land along our coastlines.

Hurricanes thrive off warm ocean water and we have seen a steady increase in hurricane activity since the 1970’s. This suggests that global warming could play a role in the increase in hurricane activity. Hurricanes such as Andrew and Katrina caused billions of dollars in damages to the regions they affected. If we could reduce global warming, it would only be natural that the number and intensity of hurricanes might go down.

Our food supply could be affected by global warming in many ways. Farmers may have to raise prices, if they need more water for their crops. A one or two degree increase in temperature would devastate areas such as the tropics. The rainfall would evaporate at a much higher rate, leaving the plants with less water. This would cause a global food shortage in some areas. Also transporting food becomes harder with increases in temperature. Foods that require refrigeration would be harder to transport, and costs would surely rise for these foods.

There are some advantages to global warming, I have a road bike that I use to exercise because my back can’t take the impact of jogging. I noticed last year that I was riding a lot longer season because of the weather. I usually don’t ride in the winter unless I want to put on a massive amount of gear. So it was a pleasant surprise when I was riding in shorts and short sleeves in November. I just couldn’t believe that the weather was so warm during these usually cold months. This is a positive aspect of global warming that I don’t have any problems with.

Living in Raleigh we don’t get a lot of snow. So it’s always a pleasure to go sledding or to build a snowman when we do get some winter weather. It seems as if we are getting less and less snowy weather in Raleigh. We got it a couple of times but not like it used to be. I remember in high school we got 22 inches and were out of school for almost two weeks. I have a feeling that global warming plays a part in this and if we can reverse this trend then maybe we would see more snowy weather in Raleigh. I wish we could have one really snowy cold month and then the rest warm, but it just doesn’t work like that does it!