

Oglethorpe Power's Climate Change Position Statement

We recognize, based on current scientific understanding, that ...

- the climate change issue is both **global and long-term**.
- greenhouse gas concentrations including carbon dioxide have increased in the atmosphere **as a result of human activity**, including fossil-fuel combustion.
- the **mean global temperature** has increased **one-degree Fahrenheit** over the last century.
- **scientific uncertainty remains** concerning exactly how much of the temperature increase is natural vs. man-made as well as the implications of continued warming.

We believe that ...

- As "insurance" against the risk that continued warming could result in significant environmental and economic impacts, **certain actions are justified today, which include...**
 - supporting research focused on **reducing the current scientific uncertainty** regarding the causes and impacts of climate change
 - supporting the use of any currently economically available **means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions such as increased energy efficiency and renewable and nuclear generation**.
 - **creating a robust R&D program** to develop economically efficient and environmentally safe **carbon capture and sequestration technologies** and a portfolio of **non-carbon emitting technologies**.
- Any future National Climate Change Policy ...
 - should allow time for these **carbon capture and sequestration technologies** and **non-carbon emitting technologies** to become **commercially available** before requiring large and unnecessarily costly emission reductions.
 - should include **all significant sources as well as sinks** of greenhouse gases in both developed and developing countries to be most **economically efficient and environmentally effective**.
 - should **start by requiring only modest reductions** in emissions of greenhouse gases and gradually increasing these reductions over time.
 - should **not disadvantage the United States'** economy in relation to those of developed and developing countries.
 - should not **preclude the use of coal**, our most abundant fuel, in the generation of electricity. Fuel diversity is important in maintaining our energy security.