



AQUARIUM OF THE BAY
Conservation Critical Issue:
CLIMATE CHANGE

WHY AND WHERE DOES IT MATTER?

Climate change is happening everywhere on the planet, and affects us all. Intense drought, increasing wildfires, and larger and more frequent storms are influenced by climate change. Our water and food supply, economic security, and human health and safety are all part of the current conversation around the impacts of climate change.

Ocean acidification, a result of increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere that drives a decrease in the pH of the ocean, is of particular concern for ocean and estuarine environments worldwide because it affects many animals' ability to build their shells. The shellfish industry along the West Coast has already felt the impacts through larvae die-offs and adult animals with thinner shells. We can't yet distinguish which marine animals and plants will survive the more acidic waters.

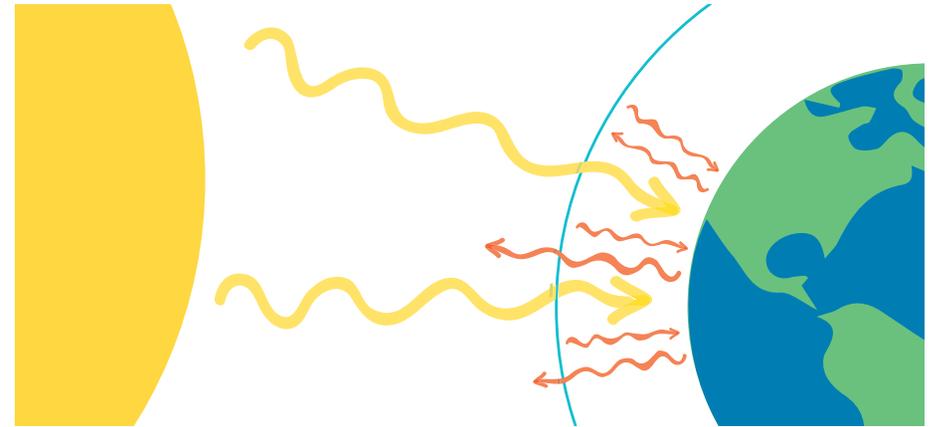
Current predictions estimate sea level rise in the Bay Area to be at least

↑ 16 INCHES BY 2050

↑ 55 INCHES BY 2100

WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?

Climate change refers to the multiple symptoms of increasing average global temperature, which is rising due to the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. These symptoms include more extreme and less predictable weather events, sea level rise, ocean acidification, and decreased snow cover.



WHY IS THIS ISSUE CRITICAL TO THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY WATERSHED?

As an epicenter of biodiversity and human population, climate change and its impacts are a critical issue throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Higher temperatures will result in a loss in biodiversity and an increased demand on fresh water supply. Other impacts in our area include heat waves, more frequent severe droughts, and sea level rise.



“ The shellfish industry along the West Coast has already felt the impacts through larvae die-offs and adult animals with thinner shells. **”**

Learn about one of our Animal Ambassadors during daily presentations at Aquarium of the Bay:



California Kingsnake

(lampropeltis getula californiae)

TAKE ACTION: WHAT WE'RE DOING

Aquarium of the Bay is a leader in climate change education and communication. In 2009, we created a series of daily climate change presentations for our PG&E Bay Lab, which features animal ambassadors from the Bay Area and around the world. Our BayMobile takes similar programming into schools throughout the nine Bay Area counties, free of charge. Since 2011, we have been a part of the National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation.

In addition to communicating about climate change, Aquarium of the Bay maintains San Francisco Green Business status, which requires a variety of waste reduction activities as well as water and energy conservation measures. We encourage our guests, staff, and partners to become aware of climate change and be proactive in reducing their carbon footprints.

TAKE ACTION: HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are many ways to make a positive difference in the face of climate change, including:

- **Reduce your carbon footprint:**
 - Bike, walk, or take shared transit more often
 - Eat fewer animal products (meat and dairy)
 - Reduce, reuse, recycle, rot (compost) - in that order
 - Shop locally
 - Use less plastic
 - Conserve energy and water at home and at work
- **Choose renewable energy:** Support renewable energy sources and policies.
- **Support certified Green Businesses:** such as Aquarium of the Bay and others.
- **Tell your local, state, and federal representatives:** Tell them you support climate change action and adaptation policies.
- **Be a part of the conversation:** Talk to your friends and family about your creative solutions, or share with us on (social media):
 - Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AquariumOfTheBay>
 - Follow us on Twitter: @AquariumOfTheBay



Embarcadero at Beach St,
San Francisco, CA 94133
415.623.5300
aquariumofthebay.org

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