

CLIMATE CHANGE

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



HOW DO WE KNOW IT'S REAL?

Annual global temperatures have risen 1.9°F since the industrial revolution, and 2010-2019 was the hottest decade on record. These changes are more drastic than we've ever seen, and they are mostly the result of humans burning fossil fuels to power our economy.

IS 1.9°F REALLY THAT BAD?

Yes. Think about it like a fever. If your temperature went up 1.9°F, you'd know something is wrong. If it kept going up, it would be an emergency. Unfortunately, our earth's temperature keeps going up.



HOW IS WEATHER DIFFERENT FROM CLIMATE?

Weather refers to short-term, day-to-day events, like a snow storm. Climate happens over the long-term. According to NASA, it is "weather averaged over several seasons, years or decades." One hurricane doesn't prove climate change, but climate change makes hurricanes more fierce and frequent.



IS IT TOO LATE TO FIX IT?

If we stopped burning fossil fuels today, global temperatures would still go up in the years ahead. This is because we've released heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere for decades. Future extreme weather events are unavoidable.

BUT, we can prevent the worst from happening. If we rapidly transition away from fossil fuels and power our lives with clean, renewable energy, then we will create a better world for ourselves and for future generations.

I'M A UNION MEMBER. WHAT CAN I DO?

The transition to clean energy will create millions of jobs. Our movement must organize to ensure these are high quality, union jobs. We must also fight to make sure there is a just transition for workers directly affected.

More and more unions are pushing to build a fairer, more equitable, and more sustainable economy. As a union member, you can help make this a reality. See the links below to learn how you can plug into these efforts.



Cornell's Labor Leading on Climate Initiative:

<https://www.ilr.cornell.edu/worker-institute/labor-leading-climate>

Climate Jobs National Resource Center:

<https://www.cjnrc.org/>

ILR Worker Institute