



Project Summary

Proceedings: EPA/NGA Workshop on Global Climate and State Actions, December 3-4, 1990

Barbara Wells, Editor

The proceedings document state and federal efforts described at a December 3-4, 1990, workshop that explored how states have been responding to potential global climate change. Co-sponsored by the National Governors' Association and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the proceedings present some of the findings that emerged from discussions among the participants. Despite uncertainty about the extent, rate, and timing of a temperature increase, many state governments are wasting no time in working to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions as research on the effects of these gases continues. Fortunately, nearly all methods to curb emissions of greenhouse gases produce other benefits as well, such as cleaner air, reduced energy costs, and natural resource conservation. Therefore, most programs to reduce emissions will reflect concern about environmental and energy issues as well as global climate change.

This Project Summary was developed by EPA's Air and Energy Engineering Research Laboratory, Research Triangle Park, NC, to announce key findings of the research project that is fully documented in a separate report of the same title (see Project Report ordering information at back).

The growing consensus among scientists and policymakers on global climate change has become familiar:

- Carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and other "greenhouse gases" trap heat in the atmosphere;

- Human activities, primarily the burning of fossil fuels, have caused rapid increases in atmospheric concentrations of these gases;
- These greenhouse gas concentrations threaten to warm the average global temperature by three to ten degrees Fahrenheit in the next century; and
- Such a temperature change would alter the global climate, potentially increasing the frequency and severity of droughts, storms, beach erosion, and flooding, and causing desertification and the migration of agricultural zones.

A recent workshop sponsored by the National Governors' Association and The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) explored how states have begun responding to potential global climate change. Despite uncertainty about the extent, rate and timing of a temperature increase, many state governments are wasting no time in working to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions as research on the effects of these gases continues.

Fortunately, nearly all methods to curb emissions of greenhouse gases produce other benefits as well, such as cleaner air, reduced energy costs, and natural resource conservation. Therefore, most programs to reduce emissions will reflect concern about environmental and energy issues as well as global climate change.

The proceedings highlight state and federal efforts described at the NGA/EPA workshop and present some of the findings that emerged from discussions among the participants.



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The complete report, entitled "Proceedings: EPA/NGA Workshop on Global Climate and State Actions, December 3-4, 1990, " (Order No. PB91-219 105/AS; Cost \$8.00, subject to change) will be available only from:

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