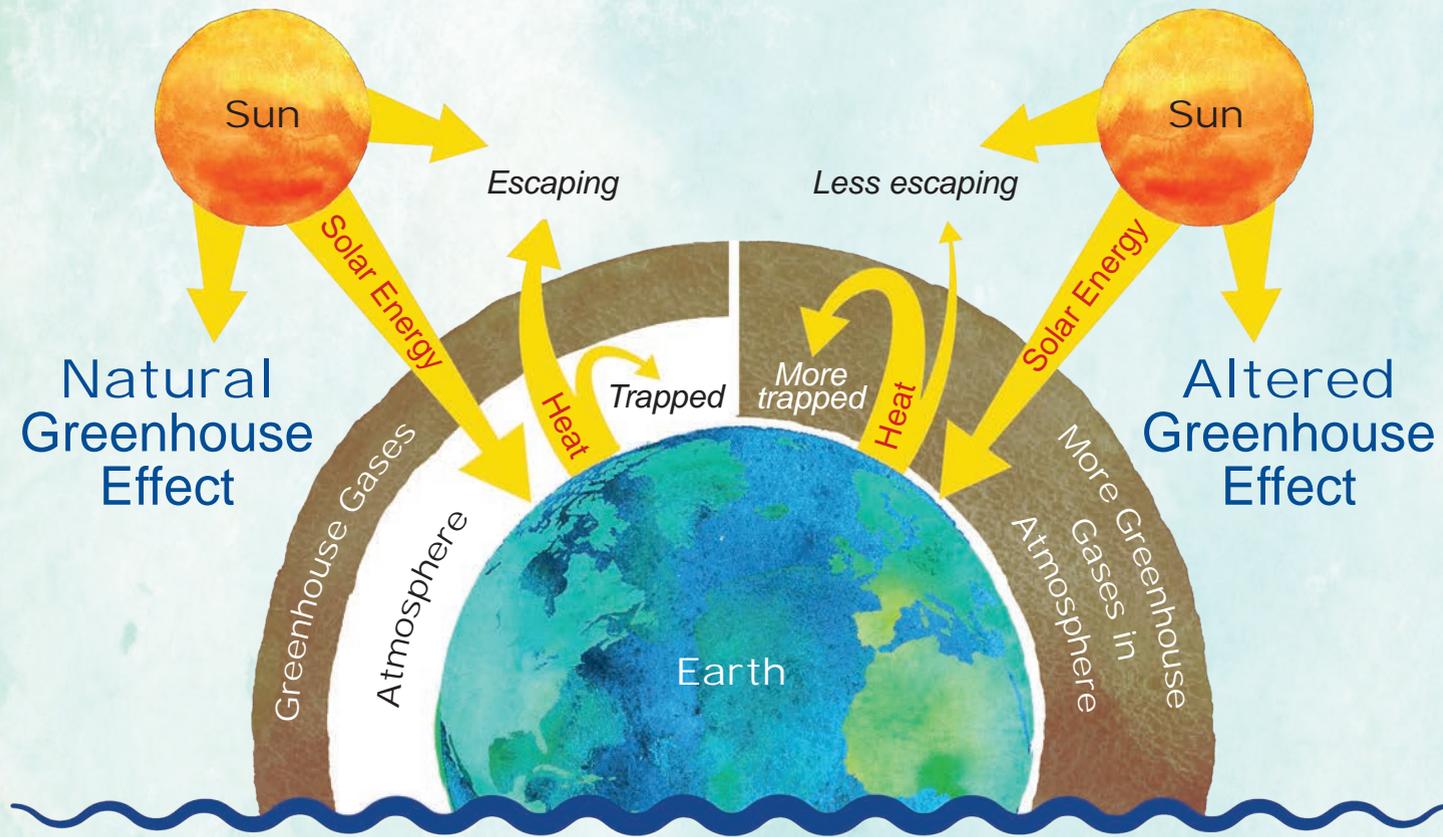


Change is in the air

Scientific evidence overwhelmingly indicates the earth's climate is changing.

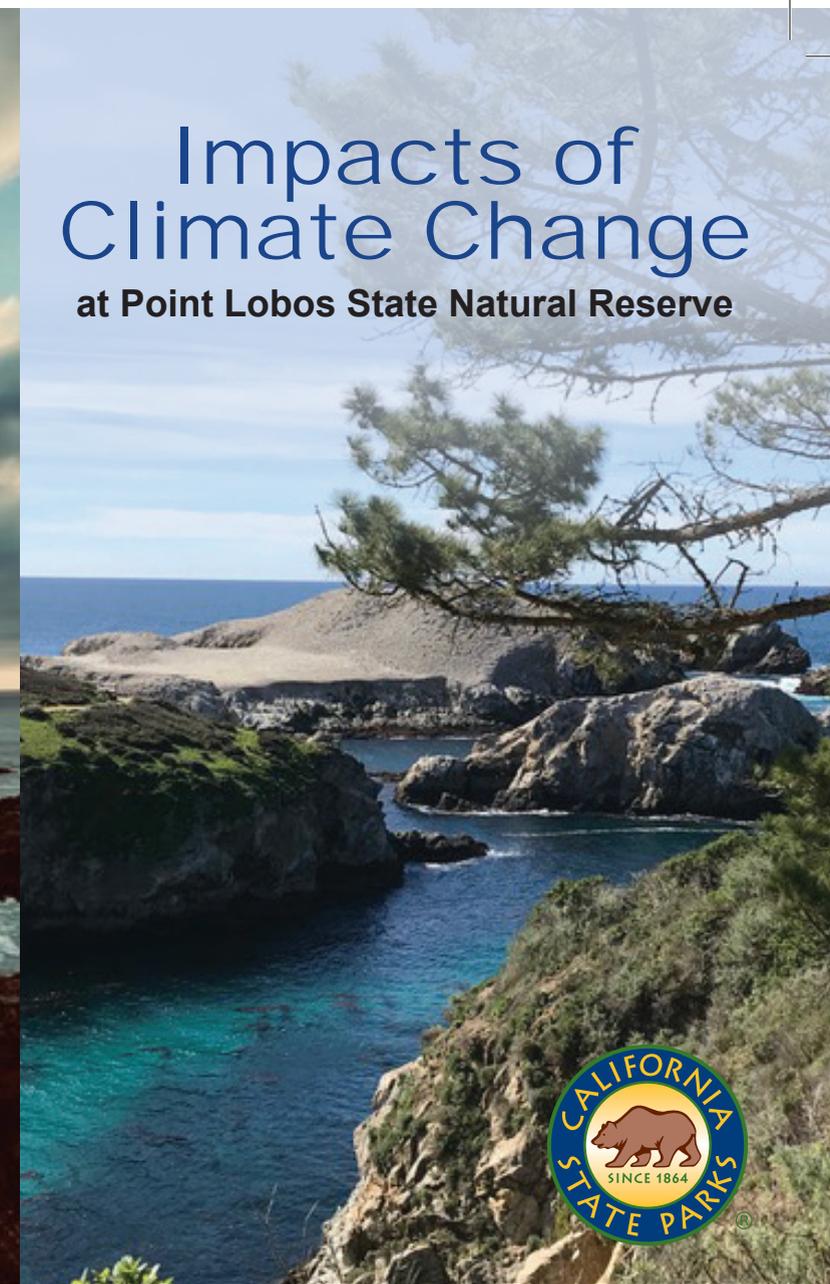
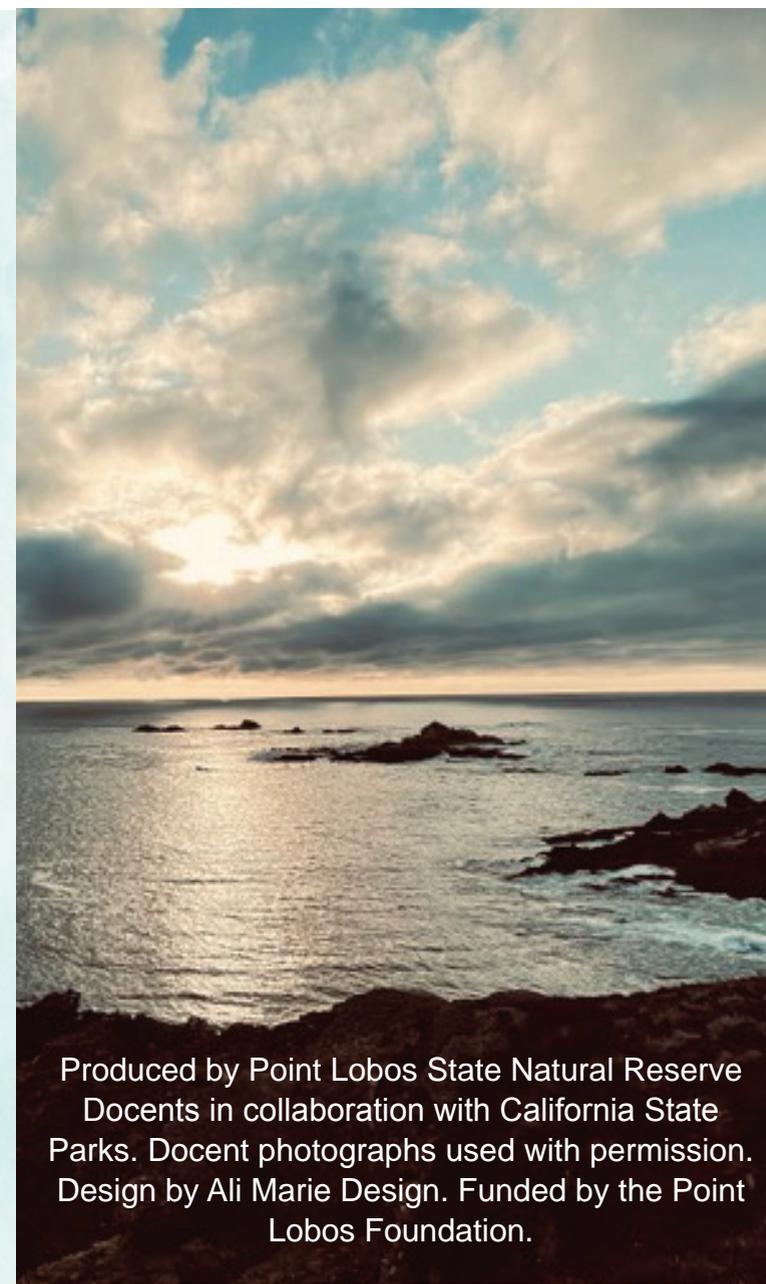


Remodeling nature's greenhouse

Atmospheric gases such as methane and carbon dioxide trap heat that the earth radiates after it has been warmed by the sun. This conversion of sunlight into trapped warmth is similar in principle to what happens in a closed car or in a greenhouse hence the term "greenhouse effect".

What makes today's changing climate different from past episodes of change is its human influence. Climate change scientists now agree that human-caused emissions of greenhouse gases are a key factor in the current rapid warming trend. In recognition of this fact, the State of California is actively working to reduce these emissions.

Impacts of Climate Change at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve



Produced by Point Lobos State Natural Reserve Docents in collaboration with California State Parks. Docent photographs used with permission. Design by Ali Marie Design. Funded by the Point Lobos Foundation.



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Your donations provide funds to maintain trails and support the docent program. Thank you!



POINT LOBOS
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STOCK PHOTO

All baleen whales feed on planktonic plants and animals as well as small fish. Whales are affected when the distribution of food changes. For example, warming of Arctic waters alters the distribution of food sources forcing gray whales to forage further north and this impacts their ability to store enough fat to make long migratory journeys and reproduce successfully.

Kelp forests are found in cool coastal waters where they help fight climate change by sequestering carbon. They also help to reduce erosion of our shoreline and provide habitat for many animals. But the kelp is vulnerable to ocean warming caused by climate change. The presence of sea otters, a keystone predator living in the kelp forest, increases the health of the kelp forests by controlling the sea urchin populations.

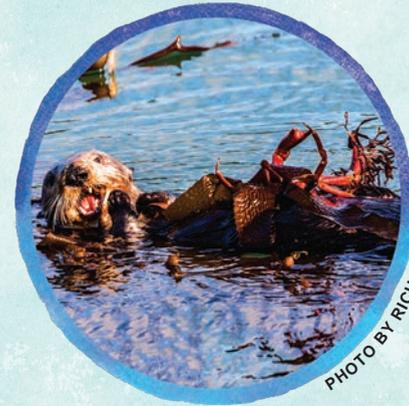


PHOTO BY RICHARD PARSONS

Research shows that marine mammals are affected by warming ocean temperatures and increasing acidity, both driven by climate change. As prey food sources decline or move and rising sea levels alter shorelines, marine mammal habitats are affected. This can cause populations to move, compete with other mammals for resources, and decline in numbers.



PHOTO BY ELAINE GEHRMANN

30% of the CO₂ produced by human activity is absorbed by the oceans which contributes to ocean acidification. This reduces the ability of shelled animals to form strong shells and survive.



PHOTO BY JERRY LOOMIS

Burning fossil fuels for transportation and manufacturing releases greenhouse gases that trap heat in our atmosphere. This increases ocean temperatures to levels unsuitable for many types of marine animals particularly in shallow waters.



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAMBERT

Seals and sea lions primarily eat fish. Globally, overfishing and rising sea temperature are reducing the abundance of fish in many ocean regions. California's network of 124 marine protected areas such as the Point Lobos State Marine Reserve protect the food sources of marine mammals by limiting fishing and collection in protected areas.



PHOTO BY ELAINE GEHRMANN

There are many ways you can help to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change:

- VOTE for proposals, policies and candidates supporting environmental issues.
- Adopt energy efficient habits at home. Use energy efficient products such as LED light bulbs and Energy Star rated appliances.
- Reduce your use of air conditioning, heating and excess water.
- Reduce your airline and automobile travel wherever possible.
- Work to reduce the carbon footprint of the goods that you buy. Shop for more local and organic produce and consume less environmentally damaging foods such as red meat.
- Reduce your use of single use plastic. Reuse, repurpose, and donate items as much as possible.
- Help preserve open space by supporting agencies and organizations working to preserve our natural environments.
- Encourage government efforts to reduce emissions, including electrification of public fleet vehicles and the creation of energy efficient infrastructure.
- Choose and encourage the use of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind technologies.
- Encourage government to participate fully in international climate agreements and treaties.