THREATS TO CORAL REEFS CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE CHANGE = OCEAN CHANGE

Increased greenhouse gases from human activities result in climate change and ocean acidification.

CO₂

The world’s ocean is a massive sink that absorbs carbon dioxide (CO₂). Although this has slowed global warming, it is also changing ocean chemistry.

CLIMATE CHANGE dramatically affects CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS

Warming Ocean
- thermal stress
Sea Level Rise
- sedimentation
Changes in Storm Patterns
- stronger, more frequent storms
Changes in Precipitation
- increased runoff of freshwater, sediment & land-based pollutants
Altered Ocean Currents
- change in connectivity & temperature regimes
Ocean Acidification
- a result of increased CO₂, reduction in pH levels

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Shrink your carbon footprint to reduce greenhouse gases.

Drive less.
Reduce, reuse or recycle.
Purchase energy-efficient appliances and lightbulbs.
Print less. Download more.
Use less water.

Do your part to help improve overall coral reef condition.

Reduce the use of lawn and garden chemicals.
DO NOT dump household chemicals in storm drains.
Choose sustainable seafood. www.FishWatch.gov
Learn about good reef etiquette and practice it when in the water.
Volunteer for beach and waterway clean ups.

Impacts are immediate and long term, direct and indirect - A weakened coral is vulnerable.