

# Effects of Climate Change

*Jennifer Salmons*

The effects of climate change are potentially astronomical. If our temperature increased by even a couple of degrees many changes would occur on earth. Global warming might sound nice, as though we'd all be living in a tropical paradise, but that is far from the truth. The Environmental Defense Fund predicts that by 2080, 200 million people around the world could be displaced by droughts and rising sea levels.

Oceans are rising and warming. Many of the big cities in our country are on or near the coasts. So what do you think would happen to those cities? When Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, tens of thousands of residents became refugees. Imagine if such a catastrophe were to strike New York, Miami, or Los Angeles? The U.S. would have millions of refugees.

Since humans have had a huge negative impact on the health of our planet, it is humans who can take steps to make it better. The most important thing is that people learn about climate change, get the word out to others, then work together to change our destructive habits. Also, we can vote for politicians who believe it is a priority to care for our earth. Why would you vote for a politician who solicits campaign funding from companies that are polluting our earth? We need leaders to support the laws that will protect our planet.

Sources: <[www.edf.org](http://www.edf.org)>; <[www.wecansolveit.org/content/solution/clean\\_energy\\_economy](http://www.wecansolveit.org/content/solution/clean_energy_economy)>.



## Spotlight on New Orleans

# A Devastating Moment

*Lenora Morrow*

When Hurricane Katrina struck on August 29, 2005, it was a devastating moment in my life. I couldn't believe how ruined our city would be. I had never seen water rising at that pace, cars and bodies floating, and family members walking with their children through polluted water. That year was one of my most depressing years. I saw homeless people with no food or clothes. They didn't have a bed to sleep in or even any money.

Every morning when I wake up, I have to be alert about the levees breaking. I remember how Katrina destroyed our lives. Every day is the same, knowing that we can't go back to how it was before. Family and friends are gone. But they will never be forgotten.

I just want to live my life as a normal person. I don't want life to be so depressing. It helps that I have support from my family and church.

To prepare for these kinds of emergencies, people should have enough supplies. The military and the police should be trained to take care of people, not threatening to shoot people.

Three years later, our city is still under construction.



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