**Global Warming Notes**

Global temperature change

* Global temperature has risen about 1°F during last century
* Human activities are changing the composition of the Earth’s atmosphere
* Greenhouse gases trap heat in the Earth’s atmosphere
* To what extent are human induced gases responsible for global warming?
* Difficult to determine the exact impacts

What is the greenhouse effect?

* Sun heats the earth’s surface and the earth radiates energy back into space
* Atmospheric greenhouse gases trap some of the outgoing energy
* “Natural greenhouse” effect – without it, temperatures would be much cooler

What are the greenhouse gases?

* Some occur naturally while others result from human activities
* Each differs in its ability to absorb heat in the atmosphere
* Types

o        CO2 – released when solid waste, fossil fuels, and wood are burned

o        Methane – emitted during production and transport of coal, natural gas, & oil, decomposition, livestock

o       Nitrous oxide

o       Hydrofluorocarbons

o       Perfluorocarbons

o        Sulfur hexafluoride

Impacts

* Health – direct, indirect
* Environmental
* Local

Actions

* Clean energy
* Increase efficiency
* Reduce consumption