

Climate Change



Definition

Climate Change is a change in the state of the climate that can be identified by changes in the mean and or the variability of its properties, which persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forcing, or to persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere in land use (Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)).

Impacts of Climate Change

Climate change will alter weather patterns and lead to:

- ✚ Loss of biodiversity (variety of animals and plants)
- ✚ Sea level rise
- ✚ Changes in the frequency and intensity of storms
- ✚ Melting of glacial and polar ice caps

Can Climate Change Affect Barbados?

Barbados is extremely vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change which can affect the economic, social and environmental sectors of the country. Climate change will result in an increase in the number and intensity of many hazards such as drought, heavier rain fall, floods, more intense hurricanes and rising sea levels which will result in saline intrusion in ground water.

These impacts will inevitably lead to decreased food production, limited freshwater, more diseases, and a reduction in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). These in turn will result in social conflicts, rising unemployment and physiological issues.

Small business owners are more vulnerable to the direct impacts of climate change which will result in losses and maybe loss of livelihood. Small business owners may not be well-positioned to mitigate against climate change due to limited finances.

One of Barbados' major foreign exchange earners is tourism; during 2015 with the influx of the Sargassum seaweed, many small hoteliers faced losses due to

cancellations as a result of the Sargassum. Fishermen also experienced losses due to loss of fishing days, being unable to fish in areas heavily covered in Sargassum and due to the disappearance of some species of fish.

What is Barbados Doing?

Barbados ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994 and the Kyoto Protocol in 2000.

The Government of Barbados has drafted a National Climate Change Framework Policy (NCCFP). The Policy provides the country's overarching approach to adaptation and mitigation and is in line with the Barbados Sustainable Development Policy (2004). The NCCFP policy is monitored by the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC).

The National Climate Change Committee is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Drainage. It reports on the development and implementation of all specific activities and programmes that are seeking to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

For more information on Climate Change call the Department of Emergency Management at 246-438-7575

OR

For additional reading visit the following websites:

www.coastal.gov.bb/

www.ipcc.ch/

newsroom.unfccc.int/

www.caribbeanclimate.bz/

www.caribbean.intasave.org