

The ice is melting. Temperatures are rising. It's hard to ignore the effects of climate change. I'm Kendall Fahey and this is Pop Poli.

[Pop Poli intro]

Experts describe climate change as the earth heating up and bad things happening. According to the Department of Ecology in the State of Washington, rising levels of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere have warmed the Earth and are causing huge impact, like rising sea levels, melting snow and ice, more extreme heat events, fire and drought, and more extreme storms.

[APES INTERVIEW]

*So when we talk about climate change and we talk about global warming really those two terms are kind of used interchangeably.*

This is Megann Shropshire, an AP Environmental Science teacher at Carmel High School.

*Global warming is just the increase in global temperatures more than what would be natural because one thing that we have to keep in mind is that climate change can be a natural process.*

*There are certain things that happen on Earth that cause natural warming period and natural cooling periods. So it's pretty normal for our climate to change and for the temperatures on Earth to fluctuate. The big concern though, with global warming, is that temperatures are increasing at a much faster rate and they are going up a lot more than what we should expect to see happening.*

No matter what it is called, climate change has big impact on more than just icebergs. Global warming impacts the economy, our health, freshwater supplies, and the coastlines. Despite the desperate need for action that experts are calling for, people are refusing to accept the issue at hand.

Like the climate, Donald Trump's view on the issue of global warming has changed over the past few years. According to TIME, Trump and other leaders in the business side of the world back in 2009 signed a letter addressed to President Obama about climate change. The letter, which both Trump and his children weighed in on, says, "We support your efforts to ensure meaningful and effective measures to control climate change, an immediate challenge facing the United States and the world today. Please allow us, the United States of America, to serve in modeling the change necessary to protect humanity and our planet."

This letter was before Trump decided to run for president. According to the Guardian, if Trump becomes President, he would be the only world leader to reject climate change. This would set him apart from not only the rest of the world but countries like North Korea and Syria whose leaders believe in climate change. In an interview with Fox News late last year, Trump claims that climate change is no big deal and that it is all simply weather.

[TRUMP 2CC- 0:21- 0:53]

*And I believe strongly in clear water and clean air. But I don't believe that what they say. I think it's a big scam for a lot of people to make a lot of money. In the meantime, China is eating our lunch because they don't partake in all of the regulation that we do. They are buying our coal, we aren't using our coal. They are using it and then they compete because they are spending a lot less money to make their products and build their products. So I am a believer in clean air and clean water at the cleanest level.*

Trump has also vowed to remove the US from the Paris climate accord, which was agreed on by 195 countries last year.

[TRUMP 2CC- 0:00- 0:17]

*I think it's ridiculous. We have bigger problems right now. To have the president there for an extend period of time, talking about global warming being the biggest problem facing this country is insane and he ought to get back to work and solve the ISIS problem and solve the problems we have with Russia and Iran. He ought to get back here and go back to work.*

The Paris climate accord which was a meeting with leaders from different countries in an attempt to curb planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions.

When asked by Fox News about his plan for dealing with global warming if he reaches office, Trump says that solar panels are a waste of money. He claims to have done the math for his businesses and found that they are not a good investment. Trump also says that the windmills are not helpful and are killing the birds therefore we should be using the energy beneath our feet, oil. Hillary Clinton, on the other hand, has made it clear that she believes in climate change. She views it as a threat to the national economy and security as well as to children's health and future. Hillary wants to continue President Obama's work on climate change without relying on Congress to pass legislation. In a campaign video on Hillary's YouTube channel, she lays out her plan for the future.

[HILLARY OFFICIAL CLIP]

*On day one as president, I will set two ambitious national goals that will test our capacity but that I know are within our reach. First, I will ensure we hit target of more than half a billion solar panels installed across the country by the end of my first term. Second, we'll set a 10-year goal of generating enough renewable energy to power every single home in America.*

[END CLIP]

Published in mid July of 2015 (twenty fifteen), the video describes only two of her plans to help solve the issue of climate change. On her website, Hillary discusses partnering with cities and

states in order to cut carbon pollution and continue to promote conservation by keeping public lands public and increase access to parks and public lands for all. She also lays out her plans for setting better standards for methane emissions and revitalizing coal communities.

It is clear that Hillary cares about the environment and what it could mean for the future if we don't take care of what we have now.

However, it doesn't matter what the politicians think if people don't agree with them. What do people think need to be about global warming?

*S1: I think saving the planet starts at your front yard. So I think you should take care of your front yard and your neighborhood and just like use less because that will always save more.*

*S2: Do as much as possible to reduce pollution. Electric cars. More recycling and anything like that.*

*S3: I think that like at Carmel, we could start using like iPads or something to help like eliminate paper because I know we use a lot of paper in very many classes so that could help. A lot of school have, they do technology base, so the students learn on iPad or computers.*

*S3: Personally my family and I usually recycle things that just because it's something that is easily accessible to us.*

*S4: Put in more solar panels because there is too much stuff in the air. And by stuff I mean pollution.*

*S5: I think we need to find more environmentally healthy alternative energy options that do not release as much CO2 into the atmosphere.*

Know the facts before you hit the polls. For WHJE, I'm Kendall Fahey with Pop Poli, A Podcast about Politics. For more stories like this and for more episodes of Pop Poli, please check out whje dot com.