

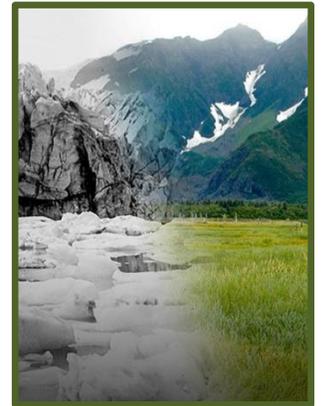
# Climate Change Declaration



**Engineers for a Sustainable Future (ESF) consists of a community of engineers and associates who advocate for policies and practices that meet our present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Climate change has become our overarching concern.**

**This is a critical time.** Climate scientists tell us that greenhouse gas emissions caused by human activities are quickly warming our planet. Global warming is causing climate changes including not only global temperature rise but also other related changes:

- ocean acidification
- sea level rise
- warming oceans
- coral reef decline
- shrinking ice sheets
- declining arctic sea ice
- glacial retreats
- decreased snow level



Atmospheric greenhouse gasses - carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide – are increasing at an unprecedented and dangerous rate.



**Climate change is a moral issue** and compassion demands that we honor and protect creation for existing and future generations. We stand united with the many voices from the global community that call for intergenerational justice to address climate change and thereby care for the earth and protect our poor and suffering while conserving other life forms.

**Climate change will affect not only our generation** but our children, our grandchildren and future generations of humanity as well as the natural world as we know it. The predicted impact of climate change will have a disproportionate impact on the least developed countries and on people living in poverty, who are least responsible for the emissions of greenhouse gases. It will displace whole populations, and we lament the tragic loss of culture identity and belonging we are already witnessing. We listen to the voices of our youth and their hope for the future and the voices of the Indigenous peoples who have a close relationship with the environment.



**While there is much to do we are not without hope.** The Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 brought together 197 nations of the world (including the United States) representing 97 percent of the emissions. This agreement was developed over a period of 20 years. Impressive progress is being reported by many of the signatory nations to the agreement including increases in energy efficiency and renewable energy.



**We urge local and state governments** to support and invest in energy conservation and renewable energy development, because the conservation of climate demands it. We urge the United States Government to respond to global warming as a national priority with great urgency and firm leadership by supporting research and mandatory measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and by actively participating as a member of the Paris Climate Agreement.



**Call to action.** Because of their routine mastery of science, math and technology, ESF calls upon other engineering organizations to address the climate crisis as an urgent moral issue. We will work with these non-partisan experts and other environmental groups defending the common good with the same sense of urgency.



## CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION COMMITMENTS

### Member Education



As engineers, scientists and others with an interest in sustainability, we are called by our profession to be well-educated on climate change issues. The logic of science leads us to hold paramount in the built environment the health, safety and wellbeing of communities. It is the right of future generations to expect us to keep their needs in mind.

### Public Education



ESF will engage the public and enlist their support to develop a built environment that is in harmony with the natural environment. Information will be presented in terms of non-partisan and independently verifiable facts and data. Many of the necessary steps to address climate change will clearly not be possible without widespread public support.

### Advocacy



ESF will advocate for the development of effective laws and regulations mandating sustainable practices and mitigating climate change. We convey our understanding clearly and accurately to decision makers and to the public.

ESF programs stress our ethical obligations to address climate change when designing the built environment. As engineers, we are well positioned to develop the knowledge and approaches necessary to intervene against and mitigate climate change. Our knowledge base and skillsets are highly leveraged to then communicate science based strategies to other professions and the interested public. The neglected and externalized social costs of emissions must be considered in our designs and analyses.