

# CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

## CLIMATE LAW INSTITUTE

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[www.biologicaldiversity.org](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org)

### ABOUT THE CLIMATE LAW INSTITUTE

The Center for Biological Diversity's Climate Law Institute was founded to confront global warming, which poses the greatest threat in human history to the natural systems that sustain life. Specifically, the Climate Law Institute:

- Sets legal precedents to firmly establish the fact that *existing* environmental laws require analysis, regulation, avoidance, and mitigation of greenhouse gas pollution and global warming impacts;
- Advocates to shift national endangered species conservation strategies to address the overarching threat of global warming;
- Aims to change the dominant public-lands management regime from resource extraction to global warming adaptation;
- Works to develop new laws to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and mitigate global warming impacts—laws that build on our successful foundation of environmental law instead of rolling it back.

### HOW WE DO IT

- Strategic, creative litigation
- Scientific petitions to protect species
- Administrative and policy advocacy
- Public education, grassroots organizing, and outreach

### MILESTONES

The Center's climate program has:

- Won the first-ever Endangered Species Act listing for global warming-threatened species — two Florida-coast corals — and "threatened" status for the polar bear.
- Won a key victory on greenhouse gas vehicle emissions when the nation's highest court sided with the Center and our partners and struck down the Environmental Protection Agency's refusal to regulate carbon dioxide as a pollutant under the Clean Air Act.
- Forced the Bush administration to publicly acknowledge for the first time, in December 2006, the scientific connection between greenhouse gas pollution and species endangerment in response to our petition to gain Endangered Species Act protection for the polar bear.

- In August 2007, won a landmark case challenging federal suppression of climate science. Under the Global Change Research Act of 1990, we argued that the Bush administration must complete a research plan and scientific assessment of climate change impacts in the United States. The court agreed, ordering the government to produce the overdue reports by May 2008.
- Filed the first-ever petition for protection of an endangered species from global warming under state law when we asked California to protect the American pika, directly threatened with habitat loss due to climate change.
- Along with 350.org, petitioned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to set a national, science-based pollution cap of no more than 350 ppm for CO<sub>2</sub> under the Clean Air Act.

## CLIMATE LAW INSTITUTE REPORTS AND RESOURCES

November 2010 – The Closing Window for Action to Avoid Dangerous Climate Change: Key Points for the Cancun Climate Negotiations

November 2010 – 350 Reasons We Need to Get to 350 ppm: 350 Species Threatened by Global Warming

November 2010 – Not Just a Number: Achieving a CO<sub>2</sub> Concentration of 350 ppm or Less to Avoid Catastrophic Climate Impacts

September 2010 – Extinction: It's Not Just for Polar Bears

December 2009 – Yes, He Can: President Obama's Power to Make An International Climate Commitment Without Waiting for Congress

December 2009 – Frequently Asked Questions: Setting a National Pollution Cap on Greenhouse Gases Under the Clean Air Act

October 2009 – 350 or Bust: Why We Must Reduce Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> Concentrations to Below 350 ppm

June 2009 – No Reason to Wait: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through the Clean Air Act

April 2009 – Why 350? Climate Policy Must Aim to Stabilize Greenhouse Gases at the Level Necessary to Minimize the Risk of Catastrophic Outcomes

October 2007 – Not Too Late to Save the Polar Bear: A Rapid Action Plan to Address the Arctic Meltdown

*These reports are available for download at*

[http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/climate\\_law\\_institute/publications.html](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/climate_law_institute/publications.html)