

# CLIMATE CHANGE COLLECTION SCORECARD

Date: February 18, 2005

Reviewer: Kirsten Butcher

Name of resource: Global Warming – Impacts

Sponsoring Organization: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

URL: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oar/globalwarming.nsf/content/Impacts.html>

Site Homepage: <http://www.epa.gov/>

RESOURCE WITHIN A SITE? **Y** / N

FOUND THROUGH DLESE? **Y** / N

IF SO, WHICH COLLECTIONS? DLESE Community Collection

RECOMMENDATION YES **YES WITH RESERVATIONS** NO

STARS 1 2 **3** 4 5 (LAME TO STELLAR)

NARRATIVE (USE OTHER SIDE IF NEEDED)

- There is a large amount of information here, organized by region of impact. The site is easy to navigate and quite expansive. However, it would have been nice to see predicted impacts tied more directly and logically to relevant data. Better coupling of data and impacts likely would be more convincing to learners. Divorcing impacts from data does a disservice to learners; they are left wondering what impacts are more or less likely and how scientists draw these conclusions.
- There are missed opportunities for multimedia that could reach learners – for example, connections between temperatures and heat-related deaths could easily be translated into a visual graph that may better communicate the relationship to students.
- Existing multimedia in the site is mostly decorative – the few graphics that do exist could be better integrated with verbal explanations for more meaningful learning opportunities.

## INTENDED USE

☒ REFERENCE

☒ COMPUTER ACTIVITY – There is a multiple choice quiz on the main page with links to answer information.

☐ NON-COMPUTER ACTIVITY

☐ EDUCATOR, **LEARNER** OR BOTH (CIRCLE) IF FOR LEARNER, EVIDENCE ITS BEEN TESTED? Y / **N**

**BEGINNER** OR ADVANCED (CIRCLE)

Easily Printed? Y / **N** – No PDF files, but the webpages may print appropriately?

## BUGS & TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES (PROBLEMATIC TO ROBUST)

1 2 3 **4**

COMMENTS – I experienced no bugs or difficulties in using the site.

## SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY- FACTUAL ERRORS/OMISSIONS (NATIONAL ENQUIRER TO NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC)

1 2 **3** 4

EVIDENCE IT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY? Y / **N**

COMMENTS – The source (EPA) is well respected, but my main difficulty with the page is that potential impacts are difficult to understand/believe without scientific evidence. This site does not do an effective job of linking these, but seems to provide good information about potential impacts alone.

## PEDAGOGICAL INFORMATION

☒ REFERENCE ONLY

☐ TEACHER GUIDE

☐ MATERIALS LIST

☐ ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES

☐ TIMEFRAME PROVIDED

☐ STANDARDS ALIGNMENT INDICATED

## PROMOTES STUDENT LEARNING (WEAK TO STRONG)

1 2 **3** 4

COMMENTS – Contextualized with appropriate data, there is a lot of information on potential impacts here. But the site cannot stand on its own – students must be encouraged to apply their knowledge of scientific methods and data to derive the potential impacts.

## APPROPRIATE/EFFECTIVE MULTIMEDIA DESIGN (WEAK TO STRONG)

1 2 3 4

COMMENTS – There is little visual media here – the graphics that are used could be more effectively explained in the text to support student understanding and interpretation.

**VISUAL APPEAL (WEAK TO STRONG)**

1 2 3 4

COMMENTS – The clear navigation and decorative pictures are not educationally relevant, but do provide visual appeal.

**TEACHING TIPS: ANNOTATION DESCRIBING HOW SITE COULD BE USED OR ADAPTED FOR CLASSROOM**

Educators could use the materials as a tie-in to previously learned methodology and data about global warming. Students could try to support predicted impacts based on their knowledge of scientific findings related to global warming. Students could also try to rank more or less likely impacts based on their understanding of global warming data.

**RECOMMENDATION: ANNOTATION DESCRIBING HOW THE DEVELOPER COULD IMPROVE THE SITE.**

- Tightly couple existing data with potential impacts – otherwise the impacts seem like mere guesswork without strong scientific backing.
- More effective use and explanation of multimedia components – graphs should be carefully described in and supported by the text for learning.
- Include suggestions for classroom use, and assessment activities that emphasize problem solving and application of knowledge.

Revised 12/3/04