



## How much will climate change cost New Mexicans?

We know that the costs of reversing climate change will be steep. Many have argued that the costs are too steep – but what about the costs of taking no action? What will that cost? What would a “business-as-usual” approach to climate change mean for the wallet of an average family in New Mexico?

The Program on Climate Economics of the Climate Leadership Initiative (CLI), Institute for a Sustainable Environment, at the University of Oregon recently attempted to answer just this question for New Mexico, releasing a report titled *An Overview of Potential Economic Costs to New Mexico of a Business-As-Usual Approach to Climate Change*. Here are a few ex-

cerpts from the report....

“Extensive research shows that New Mexico and other western states already have experienced noticeable changes in climate and predicts that more change will



Coal-fired plants are a significant source of carbon dioxide.

occur in the future. Much of this change is having and will continue to have negative economic consequences....[The report] illustrates some of the potential costs New Mexico’s families, businesses, and communities might incur over the next several decades if New Mexico, other states, the U.S., and other countries were to extend a business-as-usual approach to climate change. Under this approach, we assume behaviors do not change and the emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases would continue to grow at rates similar to those seen during recent years, leading to increases in global temperature such as those depicted in the high-

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### Seventh Generation Institute receives ESRI Conservation Program grant

7GI is excited to announce that the ESRI Conservation Program has recognized the value of the *Building Riparian Resilience through Beaver Restoration* project with the award of software necessary to complete the spatial analysis. The analysis will identify areas in New Mexico where reintroduction or increased abundance of beaver can pro-

vide the greatest benefit in buffering ecosystems against climate change.

The ESRI Conservation Program is the non-profit support arm of the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI). The ESRI Conservation Program has helped to create and develop spatial analysis, computer

mapping and geographic information systems (GIS) capability among thousands of non-profit organizations and individual projects of all sizes and types worldwide. Thank you ECP!



### Welcome new board member Mark Silano

Seventh Generation Institute welcomes Mark Silano, who has recently joined our board of directors. A resident of Santa Fe, he brings 7GI an accumulated 25 years of ex-

perience in nonprofit financial management. Mr. Silano provides financial consulting services to nonprofit organizations and serves as the full time Financial Manager at

the Forest Guild, a national organization of professional forest stewards and associated natural resource professionals, also based in Santa Fe.

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emission scenarios described by the U.S. Climate Science Program, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and others....If spread evenly, New Mexico's households, on average, could incur annual costs of \$3,430 per year by 2020. Of this amount, \$1,650 relate to expenditures on energy, \$740 relate to health-related costs, and \$520 relate to wildland fire costs.



These costs are not negligible. The 2020 average of \$3,430 represents more than 8 percent of the current median household income in New Mexico."

The full report is available for download at [http://climlead.uoregon.edu/programs/climate\\_economics.html](http://climlead.uoregon.edu/programs/climate_economics.html)

Seventh Generation Institute is working to reduce the impacts of climate change through our *Building Riparian Resilience through Beaver Restoration* project. Learn more about it on our website at [www.seventh-generation.org](http://www.seventh-generation.org).

Interested in conservation and sustainable use in New Mexico?

You can help by becoming a member of Seventh Generation Institute, donating or volunteering your time and skills. Visit our website ([www.seventh-generation.org](http://www.seventh-generation.org)) or contact us at 505 216 1150 to learn how. We are currently seeking part-time volunteers with skills and experience in bookkeeping and various types of public outreach.

Later in 2009 we anticipate recruiting volunteers to assist with the *Building Riparian Resilience through Beaver Restoration* project. Watch our website for these opportunities.

All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law and contributions of any size are welcome. 7GI and the next seven generations thank you.



*Seventh Generation Institute*

*"In every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations."*

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Seventh Generation Institute is a nonprofit 501(c)3 conservation organization based in Santa Fe New Mexico. Our mission is to conserve biological diversity, foster sustainable resource use, and ensure an optimistic future for the human communities that depend on the natural world, through excellence in science and collaboration. Our guiding philosophy is that successful conservation must include both solid science and strong community participation. We partner with agencies, user groups, tribes, private land owners, and other nonprofit and community-based organizations to find solutions for improved resource stewardship.