

Saving the Earth From Becoming Like Venus

Andrew Fahmy under the supervision of Dr. Mirya R. Holman
Florida Atlantic University

Problem

- There has been a rise of **1.4 F** in the Global temperature since the year **1880**.¹
- The earth has been recently warming at an **unprecedented** rate.¹
- This raise in global climate has been blamed on the significant rise of **Carbon Dioxide** and other **green house gases** levels in the atmosphere.¹
- According to the Intergovernmental panel on climate change there is a **90%** probability that warming the planet is linked to **human activities**.²

Method

- In order to study such a major problem I will examine the following:
- **Potential solutions** for such a major problem.
- Discussing different **polls** that examine the **public opinion** regarding the problem.
- Discussing **political feasibility** for potential solutions.



Potential Solution

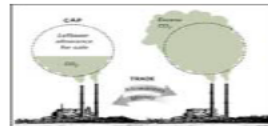
President Obama recently signed an agreement with the Chinese leader Xi Jinping stating the following:

- The US will **cut** its **green house** emissions by **26-28%** below the 2005 levels by **2025**.³
- In order to meet this goal the US will **double** its rate of **carbon reduction** from 1.2% between the 2005-2020 to around **2.6%** between the years 2020-2025.³

The US and China both account for **45%** of global **greenhouse** emissions.³

How can we achieve such a goal?

- One of the very effective policies that can be incorporated nationally in the US to achieve the goal of reducing greenhouse emissions is by incorporating a **cap and trade policy**.
- A **cap and trade policy** will allow businesses to profit economically while ensuring the **environment is protected**.
- A **cap and trade** establishes a certain **limit** of greenhouse emissions (**cap**) and businesses who succeeds in limiting their emissions below the cap can **trade** the excess amount to businesses who exceeded the **cap**.



Practical implementation and success stories

- The **cap and trade policy** can be implemented within a state and between a state and other states.
- There should be a **national cap** which is **26-28%** below the 2005 levels which is the limit set by the agreement with China.
- There should be **federal regulation** of the above measures.



Public opinion

Percentage Believing Global Warming Is Caused by Human Activities
Trend by education



57% in the US blame **global warming** on **human activities**.⁴

Discussion

- The **cap and trade policy** is a very important policy that could be a very economically efficient solution that could help in **reducing greenhouse emissions** and halt the **disastrous** effects of **global warming**.
- One of the **very politically feasible** ways to pass such a policy is by encouraging states to **pass cap and trade** policies by offering grants and incentives from the federal government to **environmentally friendly states**.
- **California** has started to incorporate a **cap and trade system** and similar policies have been successful when implemented in the European Union.
- A **national cap and trade system** could be implemented by an **executive order** allowing states to trade with each other.

References

1. "Global Climate Change." Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and California Institute of Technology. Web. 27 Mar. 2015.
2. "Global Climate Change: Causes." Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and California Institute of Technology. Web. 27 Mar. 2015.
3. Nakamura, David, and Steven Mufson. "China, U.S. Strike Deal to Limit Greenhouse Gases." Washington Post. The Washington Post. Web. 27 Mar. 2015.
4. Saad, Lydia. "A Steady 57% in U.S. Blame Humans for Global Warming." A Steady 57% in U.S. Blame Humans for Global Warming. Gallup. Web. 27 Mar. 2015.