



POSITION ON:

Climate JUSTICE

What's the issue?

Global Warming, Climate Change, Climate Justice: what does it all mean? In short, our earth's climate is changing with dire results. The scientific evidence is compelling. We have already raised the earth's average temperature by about 1 degree Celsius in the last 200 years. And we are on track to raise the average temperature several more degrees in the future – this is significant. We see changing patterns of precipitation, including more intense rainfall events around the world; dramatic changes in polar habitat for animals; changes in agricultural growing seasons; and rising sea levels. Some of these changes in our climate will have dramatic ecological and social consequences. We are all affected, whether personally or in our business, but current modeling suggests it is people in developing countries who will suffer the worst effects of climate change.

Meanwhile, developed countries have been the largest contributors to climate change. Today, many countries are overly dependent on products and processes that create large amounts of greenhouse gases somewhere in their life cycle. Much of the global economy relies on excessive amounts of fossil fuels for transportation and industry, harmful gases for refrigeration, and damaging chemicals associated with agriculture. Livestock, including dairy cows, are also significant sources of gases that contribute to climate change when we consider the feed crops, waste management, and natural biological processes they require.

We are already seeing the effects of a warming planet. It is now more urgent than ever that we take steps to dramatically reduce global greenhouse gas emissions – and to do it in a way that equitably shares the burdens and risks of climate change among the nations of the world.

What's it mean for Ben & Jerry's?

All businesses have greenhouse gas emissions associated with their operations – at Ben & Jerry's, we have ours. We rely on agriculture for our main ingredients; manufacturing to make our products; trucks to transport our finished products; and freezers to store our products. We know our sources and we have measured the emissions. We are developing action steps to address what we can control or influence.

How will we move forward?

1. We will use the power of our brand to collaborate with other like-minded companies to raise public awareness about the urgency of climate change. We will be a public advocate for a strong global climate agreement and aggressive climate legislation in the United States and other countries where we have a presence.
2. We will seek ways to support the climate justice movement which aims to protect vulnerable populations in developing countries from the worst effects of climate disruption.
3. We will support the development of renewable energy around the world.
4. We will work to constantly improve efficiencies at our manufacturing plants.
5. We will work with dairy farmers to address their sources of on-farm emissions.
6. We will continue a strong carbon offset program to mitigate the climate impacts of our global business.

There isn't any part of our business that doesn't have a responsibility to address this issue, so we need to find meaningful ways to do our part. ●

