



# population report



Population Report, 408 C Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20002 TEL 202.547.1141 FAX 202.547.6009 www.sierraclub.org/population

Volume 3, Issue 6, Fall 2001

■ **States with laws requiring insurance companies that cover prescriptions to also include full contraceptive coverage:**

California	Missouri
Connecticut	New Mexico
Delaware	Nevada
Georgia	New Hampshire
Hawaii	North Carolina
Iowa	Rhode Island
Maine	Texas
Maryland	Vermont

■ **Important Equity in Prescription Insurance and Contraceptive Coverage Act sites:**

- [www.sierraclub.org/population/epicc.asp](http://www.sierraclub.org/population/epicc.asp)
- [www.covermypills.org](http://www.covermypills.org)
- [www.nwlc.org/pill4us/](http://www.nwlc.org/pill4us/)
- [www.crlp.org/pri\\_contraception.html](http://www.crlp.org/pri_contraception.html)

## inside

Rapid population growth, coupled with human consumption of the Earth's natural resources, has created devastating environmental repercussions. Global warming is one by-product of this growth, effecting every habitat on the planet. In this issue of the Population Report, we address the relationship between population growth and climate change. In order to make prudent changes for the future, it is fundamental to understand their connection.

## Senate Committee Discusses Domestic Insurance Contraceptive Coverage

On Sept. 10, a hearing on "Improving Women's Health: Why Contraceptive Coverage Matters," was held by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Members of the committee discussed the Equity in Prescription Insurance and Contraceptive Coverage Act (EPICC) introduced by Senators Olympia Snowe (R-Maine) and Harry Reid (D-Nev.).

EPICC seeks to require health insurance companies that cover prescription drugs to cover prescription contraceptives equally. While many insurance companies state that prescription contraceptives are not "medically necessary," most women regard contraception as a fundamental component of basic health care. According to a poll done by the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL), 77 percent of Americans support laws requiring insurance companies to cover prescription contraceptives.

Senator Mikulski (D-Md.), who chaired the hearing, expressed fervent support of EPICC and for equal and fair treatment of women. "Women can improve their lives if they can choose the size of their families. Contraceptive coverage helps us to achieve the one goal we can all agree on — preventing unwanted pregnancies. Prescription contraceptives should be available to all women. It's time to end this sex discrimination in insurance coverage and give women the tools they need to manage their reproductive lives." Women pay 68 percent more in "out-of-pocket" health care costs than men, with prescription contraceptives contributing to this difference.

Jennifer Erickson, the plaintiff from the widely publicized Washington state Erickson v. Bartell Drug Company case also testified at the hearing. She brought her employer, Bartell Drug Company, to court and eventually won her case. Ms. Erickson shared what drove her to take legal action. "About two years ago, shortly after I started working there, I discovered that the company health plan did not cover contraceptives. Personally, it was very disappointing for me, since contraceptives are my most important, ongoing health need at this time. For many women, it may be the only prescription needed."

Anita L. Nelson, M.D., chief of Women's Health Care Programs at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, and Marcia D. Greenberger, co-president of National Women's Law Center, also testified in favor of the proposed legislation. The lone voice of opposition came from Kate Sullivan, director of Health Care Policy for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. She discussed why nationally mandated contraceptive coverage would be too costly an endeavor. Yet the Alan Guttmacher Institute found that the overall increase in employers' insurance costs would rise less than 1 percent.

The future path of EPICC in the Senate and House is uncertain due to recent shifts in legislative priorities. However, the hearing was successful in generating an important dialogue and a collaborative energy that will help to ensure support for EPICC when it eventually reaches the Senate floor.

**ANNETTE SOUDER**, Senior Washington Representative, Global Population and Environment Program

**SARAH FAIRCHILD**, Program Assistant, International Program; *Population Report* editor

#### **THE SIERRA CLUB'S GLOBAL POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM**

The goal of the Global Population and Environment Program is to reduce population and excessive consumption in order to protect the global environment and preserve natural resources for our common future. We work to accomplish this goal by promoting international and domestic family planning assistance and reproductive health programs to ensure that all people have the option to choose the size and spacing of their families.

**GEORGE KLEIN**, Chair, Global Population and Environment Committee

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The *Population Report* is a quarterly publication of the Sierra Club's Global Population Stabilization Program.



## World Population Awareness Week

The 17th annual World Population Awareness Week will be observed from Oct. 21-27, 2001. More than 200 family planning, environmental, educational, community, and service organizations in 65 countries support the event and will be organizing population activities throughout the week. World Population Awareness Week 2001, "Population and the Urban Future," spotlights the urgency to address the impact of rapid urbanization as a result of population growth.

#### **A Brief History....**

The Population Institute established World Population Awareness Week in 1985 as a

means of alerting the public to startling trends in world population growth and the necessity of taking immediate action. This idea has motivated growing numbers of participants both nationally and internationally. Please contact the Population Institute for more information — [www.populationinstitute.org](http://www.populationinstitute.org).

Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program encourages you to get involved in organizing or participating in a local event during this week. It is an ideal time for you to take initiative and make a difference in your community!

### Population Report ONLINE!

Beginning with our next issue, Winter 2002, the Population Report will become a quarterly online publication. For each issue, we will send out an announcement over our Population News Listserv with the exact Web site address. The format and sections of the Report will look familiar, but now be accessible online. If you would like to join the Population News listserv for population news, legislative updates and the Population Report announcements, please send us an e-mail addressed to: [LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG) Leave the subject line blank, and in the body of your message type: SUBSCRIBE CONS-SPST-POPULATION-NEWS YOURFIRSTNAME YOURLASTNAME



#### **IMPORTANT!**

We will print only a limited number of paper copies for distribution at Sierra Club meetings and events. If you are unable to access the Internet and wish to continue receiving the Population Report in the mail, please contact Sarah Fairchild at 202.675.2396 or at [sarah.fairchild@sierraclub.org](mailto:sarah.fairchild@sierraclub.org).

As always, the success of the Population Report is dependent upon feedback, suggestions and news from our members and activists. **PLEASE** continue to send your comments, ideas and news items to Sarah Fairchild at the above address.

# Too Many People Heating up the Planet

Global warming, the rise in average temperature of the Earth's surface over time, has been exacerbated by the excessive release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Exploitation of forests, and large-scale expansion of agriculture have contributed to this effect. But, forest depletion and agricultural expansion are miniscule in comparison to the monumental atmospheric changes brought about by our dependency on and consumption of fossil fuels.

By burning fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas, we create an atmosphere of

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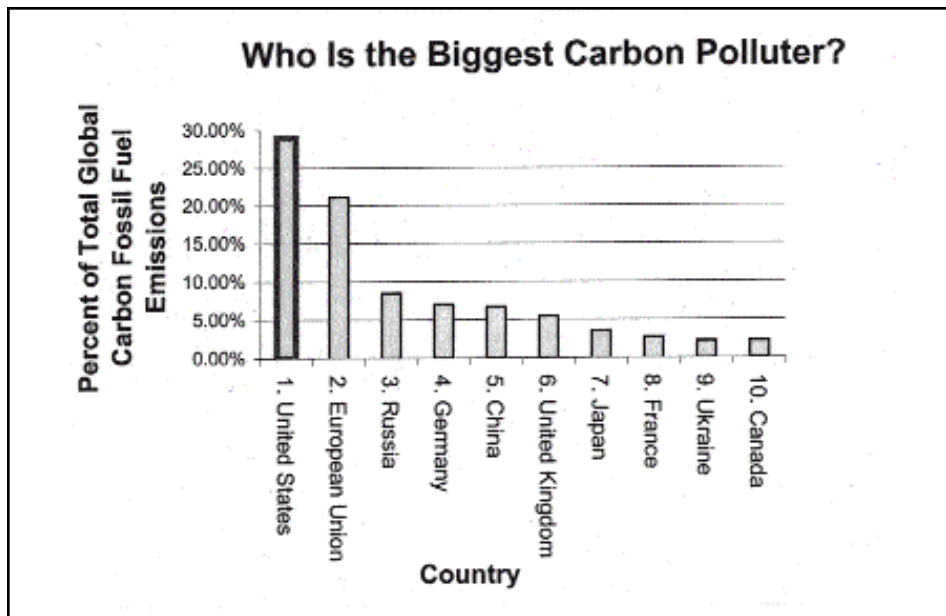
**Fact:** If U.S. autos were a separate country, they would be the world's fifth largest global warming polluter, emitting more than all sources in Great Britain combined!

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unnatural environmental change. This change can alter temperature and precipitation, cause shifts in the habitats of plants and animals, and pose serious threat to our health and the health of the planet.

According to the United Nations, carbon dioxide emissions have grown twelve-fold over the past century. During this period of time, human population has multiplied from 1.6 billion to 6.1 billion people. This rapid population growth was built on a foundation of unsustainable fossil fuel dependence.

Population, global warming, and consumption patterns are inextricably linked in their collective global environmental impact. Although the United States makes up about 5 percent of the world's population, we produce approximately 25 percent of the world's global warming pollution.



## Turning Down the Heat

The United States is the biggest global warming polluter. The primary global warming contributors are emissions from transportation, industry, and powerplant sources. Scientists project that during our children's lifetimes global warming will raise the average temperature on earth by 2.7 to 11 degrees Fahrenheit. We must begin to invest in a future that is more environmentally sound and take responsibility for our individual actions.

Altering wasteful consumption patterns by using more energy efficient technologies, recycling, using materials that produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions, and driving more fuel efficient cars, are just a few of the ways you can help curb the threat of global warming.

We can turn down the heat if we begin to understand the linkages between climate change, population growth and consumption. Slowing human population growth and alter-

ing consumption patterns are possible if we take actions to make conscious lifestyle changes and promote education worldwide.

Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program supports efforts to empower women and families through education about responsible reproductive health — a vital component in the global goal of a healthier environment. Access to family planning services does help slow population growth. However, this effort must be met by an equal effort to reduce the overwhelming consumption of natural resources, especially by industrialized nations.

### Check out these HOT global warming Web sites:

Visit Sierra Club's web site to find out how you can take action to address global warming:

[www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming](http://www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming).

Environmental Protection Agency:

[www.epa.gov/globalwarming](http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming)

Climate Action Network: [www.climatenetwork.org](http://www.climatenetwork.org)

## Global Population and Environment Committee Meets in San Francisco

All of the members (see photo) of the National Global Population and Environment Committee met in San Francisco the first week of August. To kick off the meeting, David Harwood discussed how to best engage the public on the population-environment connections and how to address difficult issues such as the much discussed birth dearth. And who better to offer advice than the former Vice President for Public Affairs Development at the United Nations Foundation (UNF) and its sister organization, the Better World Fund (BWF). All of the participants walked away with new or more refined population talking points.

National staff, Annette Souder and Wendy Balazik, shared ideas for upcoming program materials, including newly formulated population media messages packet, a new PowerPoint presentation available on CDs for members and activists, and a new brochure and factsheets currently being drafted. Committee members discussed



Smiling faces of the Population Committee: From back to front, Ned Grossnickle, Chris Kennedy, Ron Weisen, Kirk Koepsel, George Klein, Joan Jones Holtz, Wendy Balazik (Media Team DC), Annette Souder, Todd Daniel and Karen Gaia Pitts.

potential upcoming population policy legislative battles and emerging population issues, as well as better strategies to engage members and activists. Tim Frank, the Sprawl Campaign Committee Chair and Kristen Reed from the Consumption Committee also spent time with the Global Population and Environment Committee and staff to better collaborate on messages and initiatives.

### A Population Minute

World Population Awareness Week is meant as a wake-up call for us to work on one of the most complex and difficult issues our planet faces. Fortunately, there are solutions that could be implemented and would make a difference.

Just give us one minute. . . .

World human population in 1830 reached 1 billion. In October 1999 it was 6 billion. Today it is 6.1 billion... And still growing. Yet Planet Earth hasn't grown at all. Farmland, wetlands, clean water, clean air, forests, biodiversity are all shrinking.

Yet, we give less than 1 percent of the annual US foreign budget to the one cause that can bring about population stabilization — international family planning programs. Voluntary reproductive health programs provide millions of people with health services, train local people in providing those services and create other programs tailored for particular communities.

THINK ABOUT IT!

This population minute was written by Audrey Berstein, New York Sierra Club Population Committee member. If you have a population minute to share, please contact Sarah Fairchild at Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program at [sarah.fairchild@sierraclub.org](mailto:sarah.fairchild@sierraclub.org).



Sarah backpacking in Chile: February 2000.

## Welcome Sarah Fairchild!

Welcome Sarah Fairchild! Sierra Club's International Program gives a warm welcome to Sarah Fairchild, the new International Program Assistant. She recently finished a fellowship with Zero Population Growth in their Population Education Program, and has a comprehensive background in environmental education. Sarah joins the International team not only with knowledge of population issues, but also with a background in overseas work. Her Spanish proficiency and experiences working in South America bring diversity to the Global Population and Environment Program. Bienvenidos Senorita Sarah!

# Sierra Club Population Activists Never Sleep!

Here is a sampling of activities going on around the country. Please contact Sarah Fairchild with future activist notes and experiences at 202.675.2396 or [sarah.fairchild@sierraclub.org](mailto:sarah.fairchild@sierraclub.org).

Are you interested in becoming a population mentor? Find out more about our growing Mentor Program. Contact Todd Daniel at [toddan@earthlink.net](mailto:toddan@earthlink.net).

NEW YORK — Hal Bauer, Ph.D., and the Rochester Regional Group Population Committee have organized a lecture series titled “Choices and the Environment Task Force.” The program takes place monthly at the First Unitarian Church and runs until May.

TEXAS — Virginia Schilz of the Austin Group made an important statement by donating her tax rebate toward family planning.

Her rebate went to ENGENDER-HEALTH, an organization providing family planning services around the world. She also sent a letter to Gov. Perry of Texas asking that the state recognize World Population Awareness Week.

MASSACHUSETTS — The Pioneer Valley Group Population Committee, working in conjunction with the New England Coalition for Sustainable Population, will host a forum on Oct. 27 titled, “The State of the World and What You Can Do.” The event will take place at Brandeis University, covering topics ranging from women’s health to biodiversity. Hats off to Anita King for all of her work in organizing this event!

OREGON — Ramona Rex from the Columbia Group Population Committee organized a radio show on Oct. 1 that featured population as

the topic. Oregon Chapter’s issue coordinator was one of the show’s guests.

OHIO — On Oct. 24, the Northeast Ohio Population-Environment Committee will hold a forum “Population: Beyond the Basics,” at the Shaker Lake’s Nature Center.

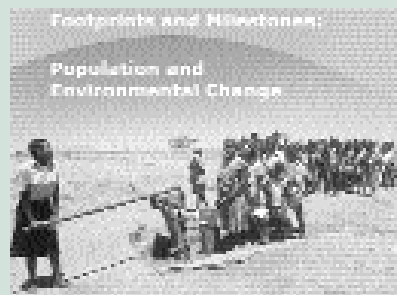
FLORIDA — Cecilia Height, Population Issue Chair for the Central Florida Group, recently contributed an article on population for her group newsletter. The article was included in a special edition devoted to urban sprawl.

GEORGIA — The Georgia Chapter Population Committee is co-hosting a forum at Emory University on Nov. 15. The speaker is Werner Fornos, president of Population Institute. The group also gave a joint presentation at Agnes Scott College in October.

## Town Hall Meeting

On Nov. 29, the Sierra Club, in collaboration with Planned Parenthood Golden Gate and the United Nations Population Fund, will sponsor a town hall meeting in San Francisco. Carl Pope, Executive Director the Sierra Club and Phyllis Oakley, a UNFPA ambassador, are among the featured speakers to discuss population-environment linkages in recognition of the United Nations upcoming publication, *Footprints and Milestones: Population and Environmental Change*. For more information please contact Sarah Fairchild at 202.675.2396 or at [sarah.fairchild@sierraclub.org](mailto:sarah.fairchild@sierraclub.org).

## An Exciting New UNFPA Resource



On Nov. 7, 2001, UNFPA will release *The State of World Population (SWOP) 2001 — Footprints and Milestones: Population and Environmental Change*. This comprehensive report docu-

ments how poverty in developing countries and wasteful resource consumption in industrialized countries are having adverse impacts on environmental systems. SWOP illustrates the complex linkages between deforestation, global warming, water supplies, food scarcity, and population growth. Visit [www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org) for more details about this exceptional resource.

**Concerned About Population Growth on Our  
Hot Little Planet?**

**EMPOWER YOURSELF!**

**Saturday November 3, 2001  
Brown University's Urban Environmental Studies Lab  
Providence, Rhode Island**

Participate in issue briefing, and an activist training with Sierra Club staff and members. Explore the connections between Global Population, Women's Empowerment, Global Warming, and learn what you can do. Design local strategies to enhance your community organizing and progress campaign tactics. **Get involved.** Take action locally, nationally, and internationally.

**This free event is sponsored by Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program & Global Warming Program**

To RSVP and for more information please contact Sarah Fairchild at 202.675.2396 or [sarah.fairchild@sierraclub.org](mailto:sarah.fairchild@sierraclub.org)



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