



EMERALD KEEPERS

For an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado

SEA LEVEL RISE

Coronado's coastline is our backyard and what a magnificent backyard it is! Many families can recount treasured memories of the time spent along the stunning ocean and bay-front waterways. However, will this treasure be there for future generations to enjoy? What about surging tides, sea level rise and our coastline?

WHAT CAUSES SEA LEVEL TO RISE?

There are two main causes of sea level rise and both are due to heat. Glaciers and ice sheets are large masses of ice that sit on the land. As our planet warms, this ice melts and flows into the oceans. More water in the oceans makes sea level higher. Secondly, water expands as it gets warmer. Warm water takes up more room in our oceans — making sea levels higher.

The current warming trend signals a rapidly changing climate that includes the effects of the heat trapping nature of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from human activity causing the Earth to warm in response. The world's seas have absorbed more than 90 percent of the heat from these gases, but it's taking a toll on our oceans and putting coastal habitats in peril.

NASA has observed the earth getting warmer and the sea level getting higher.

What is the connection? Just like mercury in a thermometer, water expands when heated and oceans are taking in more than 90% of the heat from rising temperatures. These rising water temperatures also cause the polar ice caps to melt, which ends up in the ocean.

A child born today can expect the ocean rise between 1 to 4 feet in their lifetime. In the United States alone, nearly 5 million people live within 4 feet of the



BILL SANDKE PHOTOS

The ocean is expected to rise 1 to 4 feet, which could endanger coastal residences and businesses.

local high tide level. Rising seas could mean increased flooding from storm surges. And if the ocean rises, its saltwater can mix with rivers and ground water, which is where many people get their fresh water for drinking and farming.

Predictions for the future are more positive if actions are taken in the next decade to address the concerns of global warming. Some communities are taking steps to adapt and others are working to address the cause of global warming.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- **Reduce your footprint.** We can all make a difference. Reduce, recycle, reuse. Eliminate plastics. Go to emeraldkeepers.org and see 50 ways you can help.
- **Let it soak in.** Hard surfaces prevent water from permeating into the ground, which leads to increased runoff and erosion. Use stepping stones for walkways and paver blocks for patios. When repaving, use permeable pavement which allows water to soak into the ground. Direct runoff to gardens and barrels.
- **Reduce your energy use.** Turn off lights and appliances when not in use and replace them with more energy efficient varieties. Unplug your chargers and appliances when possible because many use energy even when turned off. Adjust your thermostat to reduce AC and heat use.
- **Obey "no-wake" zones.** Waves produced by motor crafts increase erosion along shorelines. Operate in deeper water and keep an eye out for "fragile area" and "slow, no wake" signs.
- **Leave the car at home.** Vehicles are a leading source of carbon dioxide production. Reduce the number of cars on the road by carpooling, walking, biking, or using mass transit.
- **Plant more plants and save trees.** Plants clean the air and soak up rain. Reduce paper use to prevent trees from being cut down. Set all computers and printers to double-sided printing and reuse one-sided copies as scrap paper.
- **Protect wetlands.** Wetlands act as natural buffers for coastal areas during rainstorms and hurricanes. They absorb precipitation and storm surge waters. Learn about wetland restoration activities in your area and get involved.
- **Learn About Coronado's Climate Action Plan.**
- **Join Emerald Keepers and sign our pledge to be Emerald Green, Ocean Blue.**

EMERALD KEEPERS HALLOWEEN TREATS

With trick-or-treating discouraged, Emerald Keepers has a treat for the community! No tricks! Keep your eye out for our ocean and nature inspired painted rocks Halloween weekend. Should you find one, please post a photo on social media and tag Emerald Keepers. Enjoy!



NEW CITY ELECTRIC LEAF BLOWER ORDINANCE OCT. 26, 3:30pm

Did you know 1 hour of leaf blowing with a gas blower is equivalent to driving 1,100 miles? Join the City of Coronado for a webinar with STIHL to learn about the new electric leaf blower ordinance that goes into effect Jan. 1, 2021. This carbon emissions reducing ordinance is a step closer to an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado. Contact Kelli Maples at kmaples@coronado.ca.us for more information or to receive a Zoom link. facebook.com/CityofCoronado

For more information visit EMERALDKEEPERS.ORG