

Chasing Time: What's Next

Glaciers - A Manifestation of Climate Change

Glaciers that have been a part of Earth's ecosystem for millennia are rapidly melting worldwide. This is primarily driven by increased greenhouse gas emissions, which amplify the greenhouse effect on our planet. While greenhouse gases naturally occur and trap heat from the sun, allowing life to thrive, human activities have drastically increased their levels through burning fossil fuels. As a result, more heat is trapped in the atmosphere, contributing to the rise in global temperatures that have widespread consequences.

One of the most obvious consequences is the melting of glaciers and ice. Snow and ice reflect light because they are light colors. This property is called albedo, and it's responsible for reflecting 70% of the sun's energy back into space. However, as ice melts, it exposes the darker ocean beneath, which absorbs more heat and reflects less sunlight, further accelerating the warming. Additionally, as the ocean absorbs excess heat, it undergoes a reaction that lowers its pH, leading to ocean acidification, which harms marine ecosystems and disrupts the food chain. The influx of fresh, less dense water melting from the glaciers also contributes to rising sea levels, compounding the effects of increased greenhouse emissions.

The accelerated warming has a ripple effect worldwide, and the Eagle River Valley is not immune. Wildfires, drought, and reduced snowpack are just a few local, evident symptoms of the climate crisis unfolding right now. However, we know the cause of increased greenhouse gas emissions, therefore we know the solutions. Climate change and its associated impacts *can* be mitigated to avoid the worst of the human-caused climate crisis we're facing. Local action is more important than ever to do our part at the global scale.

What You Can Do

There are actions you can take to help fight climate change right here in our local community!

- **Volunteer with Walking Mountains**
 - Get involved as a [Zero Waste Volunteer](#) (paid opportunities also available) or a [Community Science Volunteer](#).
- **Electrify Your Home or Business**
 - One of the most effective ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is to transition to an all-electric home or business. There are many

rebates available through Walking Mountains and Holy Cross Energy, and our Energy Coaches are here to help you. Please [contact us](#) for more information.

- **Utilize Networks and Mentorship**
 - Get involved in the [Climate Action Collaborative](#), a network of organizations and community members working together to implement the Climate Action Plan for Eagle County. The plan commits our community to a county wide carbon reduction target of 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050.
- **Step Up Your Green Commuting**
 - Transportation is the second largest source of emissions in Eagle County. Leave your car behind by taking the [Core Transit](#) bus to work or run errands two times per week. Core Transit routes are free for most of the Valley. Look up the local bus schedule [here](#).
- **Support Colorado Gives Day!**
 - Colorado Gives Day is December 10, and it's easily the best day to give! Support Walking Mountains' efforts to engage people of all ages in our innovative sustainability initiatives, working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and foster stewardship of our local environment. [Donate here](#).

Dealing with Burnout

- **Teamwork:** It is important to remember that climate work is not a sprint or a marathon – it's a relay race. No one person can change the world, but people working together can collectively reshape the future.
- **Celebrate the Wins:** The most recent version of the [IPCC report](#) mentions the gains made by conservation efforts globally showing that progress is being made. While there is still much work to be done, these successes serve as proof that collective action can lead to tangible change. These achievements can inspire renewed optimism for the road ahead, offering hope that, with continued commitment, we can prevent further harm caused by climate change. The opportunity to mitigate its effects and adapt is still within reach. The solutions already exist, we need to continue to work together to implement them and build a more sustainable, resilient world.



To learn more about the film, visit [CHASING TIME — Exposure Labs](#).