

NEGATIVE POPULATION GROWTH

Press Release

For immediate release

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New NPG Paper Shows Serious Impact of U.S. Population Growth on Climate Change

Expert analysis reveals that U.S. population growth is “the most important factor in CO₂ emissions emanating from this country.”

Alexandria, VA (January 17, 2017) – On January 20th, Donald Trump [will be inaugurated](#) as the 45th President of the United States of America. Throughout his campaign, President-elect Trump issued regular promises to decrease immigration to the United States – plans which met fierce opposition from the pro-growth lobby and special interest groups. In response to this widespread public controversy, Negative Population Growth (NPG) is releasing a new Forum paper today in an effort to educate America’s next President – as well as the newly-elected 115th Congress – regarding the damaging impact of population growth on our world’s environment.

The NPG paper, titled [*The Impact of U.S. Population Growth on Global Climate Change*](#), analyzes trends in U.S. population when compared alongside annual CO₂ emissions levels – which have steadily increased, despite broad public implementation of conservation, recycling, “smart growth” movements, and “green” technology. Author Edwin S. Rubenstein explains: “Energy-saving technology has reduced per capita carbon dioxide emissions since the first Earth Day. Total emissions are higher, however, because of population growth. This could have been avoided had the [National Environmental Policy Act] ordered Congress to study the impact of its own actions – especially the immigration laws that dramatically increased U.S. population growth.”

Rubenstein highlights the glaring contradiction between the “Reduce! Reuse! Recycle” philosophy touted by most conservationists, and the actual CO₂ emissions experienced by even environmentally-conscious nations around the world. He notes: “Many environmentalists still argue that Americans need focus only on reducing pollution and consumption in order to curb environmental degradation. They are right to push for less consumption and increased energy efficiency, but wrong to assume such efforts can replace a reduction of our population. A growing population can overwhelm improvements in energy efficiency and emissions abatement.” Rubenstein points out that for Americans, immigration accounts for a large portion of that population growth.

He explains: “Although [overall U.S. CO₂] emissions remain below pre-Great-Recession levels, future population growth will inevitably reverse the CO₂ downdraft. The latest Census Bureau projection – published in December 2014 – shows U.S. population reaching 416.8 million in 2060. That is 98 million, or 31%, above the population reported for 2014. Immigration will account for about 65% of all population growth over this period. By the 2050s, as much as 82% of annual population growth will be from this

component.” The paper also highlights a recent Environmental Impact Statement on U.S. immigration policy, which found that present admission rates of 1.25 million per year “would lead to a U.S. population of 524 million in 2100, an increase of 70%” – and if nothing changes in current emissions trends, “CO₂ emissions from the U.S. would be 70% higher in 2100.”

NPG President Don Mann had strong praise for the new work, stating: “Rubenstein expertly highlights the serious environmental implications of population growth – particularly our nation’s presently lax immigration policies – and demonstrates how those pressures are adding up to significant CO₂ emissions. The reckless policy of ‘more immigration for more growth,’ which has been pushed upon us for decades, clearly does not serve the best interests of Americans – or our fragile ecosystem.” Mann added: “Immigration will soon be the primary driver of U.S. population growth, and our everyday crises are growing as a result. If we do not act now, our nation’s environment – not to mention our overall quality of life – will certainly pay a hefty and dangerous price.”

Unfortunately for pro-growth advocates, the report concludes: “Over the long run, U.S. population growth is the most important factor in CO₂ emissions emanating from this country – and immigration is likely to be the main determinant of how fast our population grows. We must, therefore, enforce responsible immigration policies which dramatically reduce our annual admissions – and enact national population policies which work to slow, halt, and eventually reverse our population growth. Only then can we hope to lessen – let alone reverse – our nation’s contribution towards global climate change.”

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Founded in 1972, NPG is a national nonprofit membership organization dedicated to educating the American public and political leaders regarding the damaging effects of population growth. We believe that our nation is already vastly overpopulated in terms of the long-range carrying capacity of its resources and environment. NPG advocates the adoption of its [Proposed National Population Policy](#), with the goal of eventually stabilizing U.S. population at a sustainable level – far lower than today’s. We do not simply identify the problems – we propose solutions. For more information, visit our website at www.NPG.org, follow us on Facebook [@NegativePopulationGrowth](#) or follow us on Twitter [@npg_org](#).