

[Home](#) | [Top News](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Odd News](#) | [Business](#) | [Sports](#) | [Science](#) | [Health](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Photos](#) | [Videos](#)
[Resource Wars](#) | [Global Water Issues](#)
[Daily Briefing](#) » [Iranian Nukes](#) • [Balloon Boy](#) • [Afghan Election](#) • [Iran Attack](#)

 You are here: [Home](#) / [Science News](#) / [Study: Arctic might alter Earth's climate](#)

Science News

[View archive](#) | [RSS Feed](#) 
 Receive Free UPI Newsletter

Study: Arctic might alter Earth's climate



Print



Email



Comments



Share

Published: Oct. 15, 2009 at 6:12 PM

[Order reprints](#)

FAIRBANKS, Alaska, Oct. 15 (UPI) -- U.S. scientists say they've determined the arctic traps up to 25 percent of the net global carbon from atmospheric carbon dioxide.

That, the scientists said, means the arctic might hold the key to Earth's climate since, under current predictions of global warming, the arctic sink, or natural carbon reservoir, could be diminished or reversed, potentially accelerating predicted rates of climate change.

David McGuire of the U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, who led the research, said the Arctic has been a carbon sink since the last ice age, accounting for up to 25 percent of the global carbon sink. But, McGuire said, the arctic's rapid rate of climate change, which is about twice that of lower latitudes, could eliminate the sink and possibly make the arctic a source of carbon dioxide.

"In the short term, warming temperatures could expose more arctic carbon to decomposition," McGuire said. "And with permafrost melting, there will be more available carbon to decompose."

The thawing permafrost also could encourage the activity of methane-producing organisms.

"We don't understand methane very well, and its releases to the atmosphere are more episodic than the exchanges of carbon dioxide with the atmosphere," McGuire said. "It's important to pay attention to methane dynamics because of methane's substantial potential to accelerate global warming."

The study's findings are reported in the journal *Ecological Monographs*.

Next Story: [FDA announces LASIK investigation plans](#)
 or [see all Science News stories](#)

© 2009 United Press International, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Sponsored Links

Explore

2009 Nobel Prize Winners



The 1658 lb Pumpkin



The Gaza Zoo Zebras



San Francisco Fog



DO NOT Bleach Teeth

Learn 1 simple trick, discovered by a mom, that dentists DON'T want you to know.
www.consumertiptoday.com

4.25% Fixed Rate Refinance

Refi & Save with DPR®! No SSN Req. As Featured on CNNMoney & Forbes.
DeltaPrimeRefinance.com

Buy a link here



Print



Email



Comments (0)



Share

News Photos - Slideshows

Photos of the Day | Week in Photos | **News** | Entertainment | Sports | Features | Archives

The First 100 days

Photos of the Year



President Obama visits winning school



Violence in Pakistan



Sec. Clinton in Moscow



Dow Jones Breaks 10,000



Taliban Militants Disarm



President Obama meets with Spanish



Immigration Reform Rally in D.C.



Fiesta Latina at the White House



President Obama Wins Nobel Prize



Solar Decathlon



Helen Keller Statue Unveiled



Obama Visits Counter Terrorism Center

Additional News Stories

Top News



Russia's Goldstone vote angers Israel

JERUSALEM, Oct. 19 (UPI) -- Russia's vote to adopt a U.N. report accusing Israel of war crimes endangers its hopes of hosting a Middle East conference, an Israeli official says.

- » Typhoon nears battered Philippines
- » Iranian general vows revenge for attack
- » Police Taser 19-year-old man, who dies
- » Pop Warner coach removed after fight

Science News

- » Gardasil OK'd to stop male genital warts
- » NASA reschedules Ares I-X rollout
- » Tulane doctor kills cancer cells with cold
- » Energy lobby splits on climate change bill
- » Fracture zones may endanger Egyptian tombs

Entertainment News



99s present Swank with Earhart medal

FAIRFIELD, N.J., Oct. 18 (UPI) -- The president of The 99s, an organization of women pilots, has honored actress Hilary Swank and director Mira Nair for their work on "Amelia," a film about pioneering U.S. aviatrix Amelia Earhart.

- » Stephanie Pratt arrested for DUI
- » Freedom theme dominates MEIFF film fest
- » Baltimore marking Poe's 200th B-day
- » Sharpton threatens to sue Limbaugh

SF Bay Area News

- » OPEN Restaurant's Futurist Extravaganza
- » Arrest made in Antioch video store stabbing
- » Reader Reports: 1358 Cole Then (\$800,000) And Now (\$749,000)
- » Video of the Day - More Glenn Beckitude
- » Developers' bust proves a boon for land trusts
- » Ad: New ways to save on car insurance in SF Bay Area

Change Geo

More News **fwix**

Most Popular

Stories

Photos

Videos

People

digg™

1. Collider cooled to deep space temps
2. Moon landing kicked up debris, after all
3. Meteorite smashes windshield
4. Purification of toilet water expected
5. Congress passes hydrogen car funding bill

Sponsored Links

DO NOT Bleach Teeth

Learn 1 simple trick, discovered by a mom, that dentists DON'T want you to know.
www.consumertiptoday.com

Laser Spine Institute

Try Our Minimally Invasive Laser Procedure. Get More Info Today!
www.LaserSpineInstitute.com

Jobless Mom Makes \$81/Hr (Online)

Unemployed Mom Makes \$8,643/Month...
News18.TV

Buy a link here

Videos

Enlarge Video



Reaction: Authorities expose alleged Heene hoax

Monday, October 19



Advocacy groups aim to help young people get jobs
Monday, October 19



Reaction: Balloon boy brouhaha
Friday, October 16

Senate panel passes health care reform bill



Comments

There are no comments posted yet. Be the first one!

Post a new comment

Comment as a Guest, or login: [intensedebate](#) [twitter](#) [OpenID](#)

Name

Email

Displayed next to your comments.

Not displayed publicly.

Subscribe to None

Submit Comment

Comments by [intensedebate](#)



Thursday, October 15

What's Happening Now?

Swine flu found in Minn. State Fair pig (12 min)

Affordable anti-rejection drug effective (19 min)

Photovoltaic organic polymer advance made (29 min)

Fear of being laughed at is universal (31 min)

UPI NewsTrack Business

White House takes cuts at bank bonuses

Fewer older people getting H1N1 flu

FARK.com

California Environmentalists are so hardcore they even block environmental projects in the name...

Is the traditional marriage proposal dead? Subby wouldn't know - he slipped the carry a 20 to keep...

In the latest war on intangible concepts, Obama has declared war on stupidity

Sometimes you can't do better than the existing headline: The mainstream evolution-theory scholar...

Fiat once named a car Squirrel, probably because it would be instant roadkill if it met another...

Octomom: "I kind of have a crush on Jon Gosselin, I think he's hot" It was bound to happen

[Marketplace](#) | [Official Government Wires](#) | [About UPI](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Advertise Online](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [UPI Mailing Address](#)

© 2009 United Press International, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



Sponsored Links: [Auto Dealers](#) - [Celebrity Keynote Speakers Bureau](#) - [Public Records](#)