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Bring Back  
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## **Greenland Ice Cap Thickens Slightly**

**Reuters**

CNN.com

Posted: Sunday, 21 Oct. 2005

The ice caps in Greenland play an important role in keeping the North Atlantic Current running. In fact, if enough of that ice melted, it could slow down the North Atlantic Current causing a drastic climate change. Larger changes to the ocean could occur, as well. Scientists say of Greenland's ice cap, "a total melt would raise sea levels by seven meters" and that "oceans would rise by about 70 meters if the fat bigger ice-cap on Antarctica melted along with Greenland." In fact, a prediction of a raise of global sea levels of one meter by 2100 has been made. According to Richard Alley, "Greenland presently makes the largest contribution to sea level rise."

Because glaciers at sea level had been retreating, scientists assumed that the Greenland ice cap was thinning. Actually, more snow is falling, which is thickening the ice cap. When the air is warmer, it can hold more moisture. That moisture is then released as snow. Because of the warmer (and warming) climate, more of the glaciers are melting which is causing a greater amount of snowfall.

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/TECH/science/10/21/greenland.icecap.reut/index.html>

Now what?

- How does a rise in sea level affect the global climate?
- How does this rise affect the North Atlantic Current?
- How does an increase in snowfall affect the North Atlantic Current?
- What does more snowfall mean for those studying the Greenland ice cores?
- What does the increase in melting glaciers mean to climate change?