Temperatures climb
The mid-Atlantic region is one of the most rapidly warming locations in the continental U.S.

- Summer 2023 was the 3rd warmest summer on record in NJ
- Average annual temperatures in NJ increased nearly 4°F since 1900, roughly twice the global average
- CO₂ levels in the atmosphere are the highest in at least 800,000 years

Sea-level rise accelerates
And the trend is expected to continue well beyond the 21st century.

- Sea level at Atlantic City rose about 18.6 inches since 1911, more than double the global average
- Average annual tidal flooding days in Atlantic City
  - 1950s: <1
  - 2007-16: 8
  - Projected: 2030: 17–75, 2060: 85–315 with moderate emissions
- Tidal flooding in Atlantic City is expected to occur at least 240 days a year with moderate emissions by 2100

Wildfires degrade air quality
Canadian wildfires blanketed the northeast U.S. in a smoky haze, causing “unhealthy” and “very unhealthy” air quality in parts of NJ and releasing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

- Wildfires in Canada burned 32 million acres in May and June 2023, emitting approximately 480 megatons of carbon
- Emergency department visits in the U.S. were 17% higher than expected during the 19 days Canadian wildfire smoke covered parts of the U.S.
- NJ wildfires burned over 18,000 acres in 2023 – “an abnormally active fire year,” according to NJDEP.

U.S. deaths related to air pollution are projected to increase 25,000 by 2100 (relative to the year 2000) with very high warming.

What’s at stake for New Jersey?
Warmer temperatures are producing more severe heat waves. Sea-level rise and heavy rains are causing more intense flooding. These and other climate-related hazards are projected to escalate through the 21st century and will fall heaviest on NJ’s most vulnerable residents.

- **Health**
  - Increased heat-related illness
  - Degraded air quality
  - Spread of vector-borne disease
  - Storm-related injury and death

- **Economy**
  - Damage to infrastructure
  - Damage to homes and businesses
  - Economic disruption
  - Potential decrease in agricultural yields

- **Environment**
  - Greater wildfire risk
  - Habitat loss
  - More short-term droughts
  - Potential freshwater salinization