State of the Climate

New Jersey 2023

RUTGERS–NEW BRUNSWICK
New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center

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

CO_2 levels in the atmosphere are the highest in at least
800,000 years

Avg annual temperatures are projected to increase as much as
4–6 °F
by 2100 in a moderate emissions scenario
and as much as
7–12 °F
by 2100 in a high emissions scenario

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

Sea level is projected to increase
0.5–1.1 ft by 2030
and
0.9–2.1 ft by 2050
relative to the year 2000

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

SCAN QR CODE TO READ FULL REPORT

NJCLIMATERESOURCECENTER.RUTGERS.EDU