



Hitting close to home

Global warming is fueling extreme weather across the U.S.

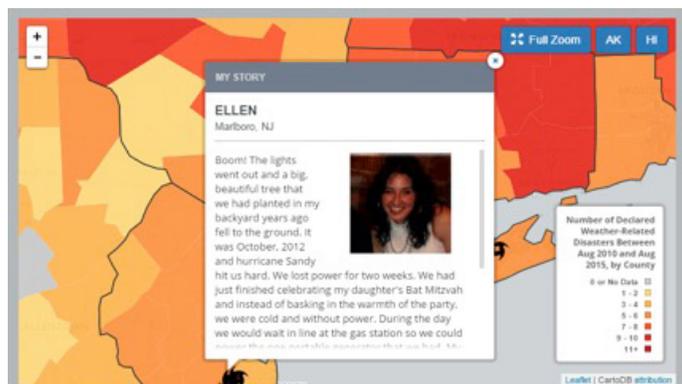
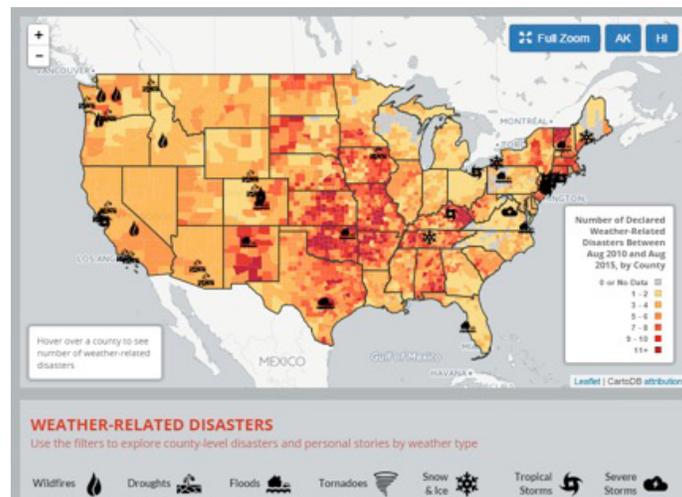
Every year, weather-related disasters injure or kill hundreds of Americans and cause billions of dollars in damage. Many of the risks posed by extreme weather will likely increase in a warming world. Scientists have already noted increases in extreme precipitation and heat waves as global warming raises temperatures and exacerbates weather extremes.

Weather-related disasters affect millions across the country

- Since September 2010, counties housing **97 percent** of the total U.S. population (nearly 310 million Americans) were affected by federally-declared weather-related disasters.
 - » Over the last five years, weather-related disasters were declared in **all 50 states** and in D.C.
 - » In 32 states, every county had at least one weather-related disaster.
 - » **More than 57 million Americans** live in counties that were affected by five or more weather disasters.
- Extreme weather events caused at least 405 power outages in the U.S. since 2010, affecting more than **70 million Americans**.
- In 2015, there were **10 weather and climate disaster events** that cost over \$1 billion each across the United States.

New online map shows personal stories of extreme weather

Environment America's new interactive extreme weather map shows weather-related disasters in the United States over the last five years and tells the stories of the people and communities who have endured some of those disasters. Map visitors can focus in on specific types of weather and even add their own stories of how extreme weather has affected their lives.



Weather extremes are becoming more common

- Globally, 2015 was Earth's hottest year on record, surpassing 2014, which beat out 2010. The three warmest years in the historical record have happened in the past six years.
- California is experiencing its **worst drought** in more than a millennium.
- The flooding in South Carolina during the fall of 2015 was triggered by record rainfall. In the first week of October, the state received more precipitation than it had ever recorded for an entire month of October.
- For the first time on record, in 2015 wildfires in the U.S. burned more than **10 million acres in a single year**.

Many types of extreme weather are expected to become more frequent or severe in a warming world, which could lead to more weather-related disasters.

- **Tropical Storms and Hurricanes:** Global warming has the potential to make tropical storms more destructive. Hurricanes and other coastal storms are likely to be more powerful and rainier, while storm surges could be more destructive as sea levels rise.
- **Heavy Rain and Snow:** Extreme precipitation is already increasing; continued trends could increase the risk of intense downpours, heavy snowstorms and severe flooding.
- **Droughts and Wildfires:** While global warming is anticipated to bring more rain to some areas, it will also likely elevate temperatures and extend dry spells. The potential for stronger drought—and greater area burned by wildfires—will increase, particularly in the West and Southwest.



For full methodology, citations, and the online map, please visit:

www.EnvironmentAmerica.org/ExtremeWeather

Population of counties with federally declared weather disasters, by type, from September 2010—December 2015.

Type of disaster	Population affected
Drought*	241,884,280
Flood	156,996,090
Severe Storm	188,133,095
Snow/Ice	69,094,592
Tornado**	76,386,681
Tropical Storm	78,100,477
Wildfire	8,490,149

* Drought disasters are declared by the secretary of the USDA for events between January 2011 and December 2015. All other disasters are presidentially declared major disasters, beginning between September 2010 and December 2015, declared before January 31st, 2016.

**There is little scientific clarity about how global warming may affect tornadoes, but tornadoes are a major cause of weather-related disasters in the United States.

The United States must continue to cut global warming pollution

To protect our communities and our children from a future of **worsening extreme weather**, states, cities, and the nation should **limit global warming pollution to levels consistent with the Paris Climate Agreement**—at least 40 percent below 1990 emissions by 2030 and at least 80 percent by mid-century. Essential steps include:

- **Fully Implement the Climate Action Plan.** The United States should forge ahead with the Climate Action Plan, including cleaning up big trucks, limiting methane pollution, and implementing the Clean Power Plan, the first federal limits on carbon pollution from power plants.
- **Maximize energy efficiency.** The nation should accelerate progress in making our buildings, appliances, industry and transportation more efficient.
- **Shift to 100 percent clean power.** Meeting our climate goals will require accelerating deployment of clean, renewable energy technologies such as wind and solar.
- **Use clean energy for transportation and heating.** Governments and businesses should shift our transportation and industrial energy systems away from fossil fuels and toward electricity or other kinds of clean energy.
- **Keep dirty fuels in the ground.** To protect the global climate and our health, the nation must cease construction of any new fossil fuel infrastructure and leave our coal, oil and gas reserves in the ground.