



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.

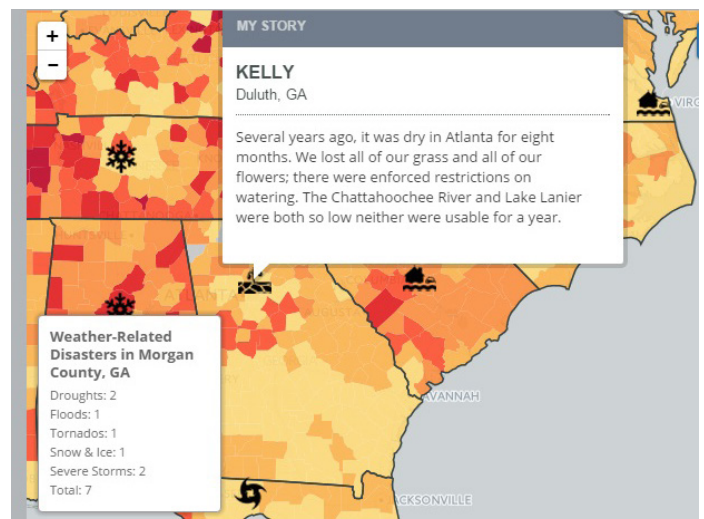
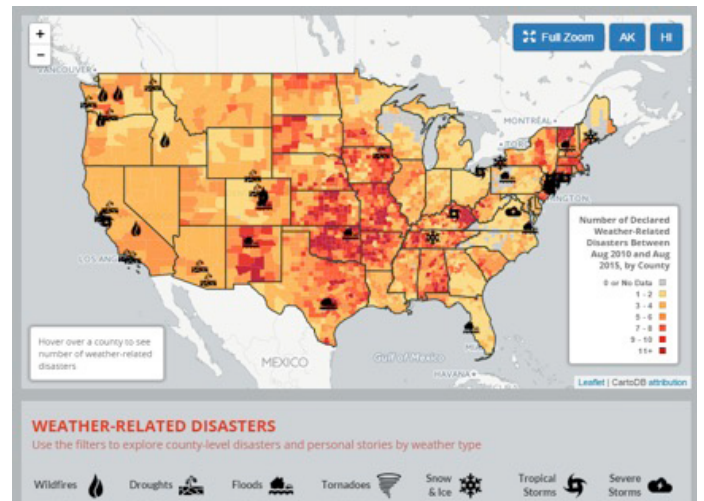
Weather-related disasters affect millions in Georgia

- Since September 2010, counties housing 99 percent of the total Georgia population (over 10 million Americans) were affected by federally-declared weather-related disasters.
- Georgia experienced four weather-related disasters, including severe storms, tornadoes, floods, snow and ice storms, and droughts since September 2010.

New online map shows personal stories of extreme weather

Environment Georgia'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.



Extreme weather causes widespread destruction

- In February 2015 a large winter storm and associated cold wave impacted many central, eastern and northeastern states, including Georgia. The storm and cold wave caused at least 30 deaths and the total estimated costs were over \$1 billion in the affected region.
- In 2012 drought conditions affected more than half the country, including Georgia. The total estimated costs of the 2012 drought and heat wave were more than \$31.2 billion. The heat wave killed at least 123 people.
- Since 2010, extreme weather events have caused at least 17 power outages in Georgia, including one outage that lasted 4 days in February 2014.

Weather extremes are becoming more common

Globally, 2015 was Earth's hottest year on record, surpassing 2014. 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 more information and the full report, please visit

www.EnvironmentGeorgia.org/ExtremeWeather

Georgia must cut global warming pollution

To protect our children and our communities from a future of worsening extreme weather, Georgia, its 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:

- **Effectively implement the Clean Power Plan.** Georgia should drop its legal challenge to the Clean Power Plan, the largest single step that the United States has taken to reduce dangerous carbon pollution from power plants. Moreover, the state should plan to comply with the policy using clean energy solutions, cover new and existing plants, and ensure that polluters pay.
- **Maximize energy efficiency.** Georgia and its cities should expand energy efficiency programs and adopt net-zero energy building codes and retrofit standards.
- **Shift to 100 percent clean power.** Meeting our climate goals will require accelerating deployment of clean, renewable energy sources such as solar and offshore wind power. The state should establish a clean energy standard.
- **Use clean energy for transportation and heating.** Georgia should shift energy for transportation and heating away from fossil fuels and toward electricity or other forms 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.



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