



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.

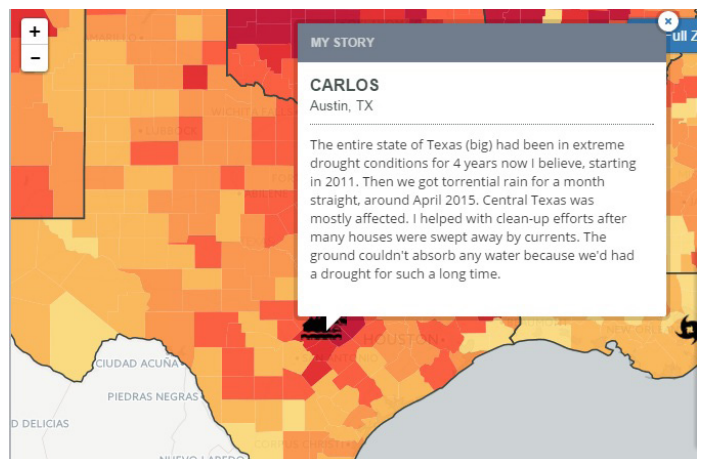
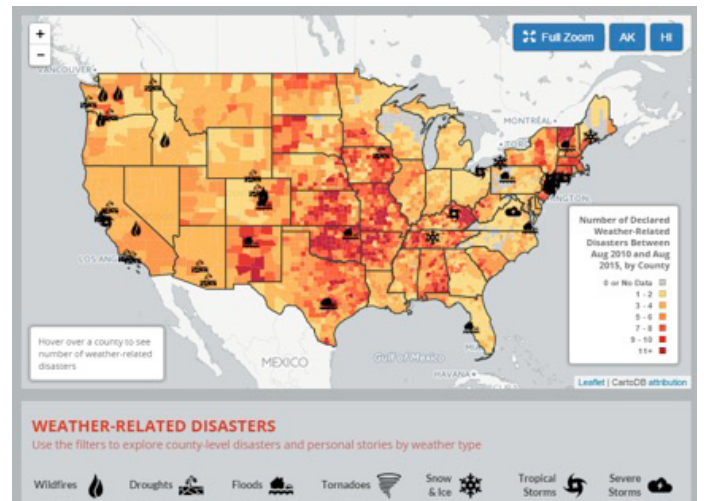
Weather-related disasters affect millions in Texas

- Every Texan lives in a county that was affected by at least one federally-declared weather disaster since 2010.
- Texas experienced **six weather-related disasters**, including severe storms, wildfires, tornadoes, floods, and droughts since September 2010.

New online map shows personal stories of extreme weather

Environment Texas' 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 May 2015 tremendous rainfall and subsequent flooding caused the Blanco River in Texas to **swell to a crest of more than 40 feet over several hours**. The city of Houston also experienced flooding, which resulted in hundreds of high-water rescues.
- In 2014 historic drought conditions affected parts of Texas. The total estimated costs of the 2014 western drought were an estimated **\$4 billion**.
- Since 2010 extreme weather events in Texas **caused at least 25 power outages**, including one that lasted 6 days in 2013.

Weather extremes are becoming more common

Globally, 2015 was **Earth's hottest year on record**. 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 throughout the United States.

- **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, particularly in the Northeast and Midwest; 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 between rain events. This could increase the potential for stronger drought and greater area burned by wildfires, particularly in the West and Southwest.



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

www.EnvironmentTexas.org/ExtremeWeather

Texas must cut global warming pollution

To protect our children and our communities from a future of **worsening extreme weather**, Texas, 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.** Texas 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 and ensure that polluters pay.
- **Maximize energy efficiency.** Texas 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 wind power. The state should set a new, expanded clean energy standard.
- **Use clean energy for transportation and heating.** Texas 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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