

CLIMATE POWER

FACT SHEET: CLIMATE CHANGE HURTS WISCONSIN

CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS WISCONSIN'S SAFETY

- Between 2010 and 2024, Wisconsin saw [41](#) billion-dollar extreme disasters, totaling up to [\\$20 billion](#) in damages. From January through June 2025, Wisconsin has had [28](#) billion-dollar extreme weather disasters, totalling up to [\\$10 billion](#) in damages. In the past decade, Wisconsin has received [\\$976,447,139](#) in FEMA disaster assistance funding.
- Since 1970, Wisconsin has experienced [3.2 degrees Fahrenheit](#) of warming, and the past two decades have been the state's [warmest](#) on record.
- More than [130,000 Wisconsinites](#) are especially vulnerable to extreme heat, and climate change is making extreme heat streaks [more common](#) across the state.
 - Since 2020, several Wisconsin cities, including Green Bay, La Crosse, Eau Claire, Madison, and Wausau, have experienced an average of [five or more heat streaks per year](#). The city of Milwaukee has seen an average of [seven heat streaks per year](#), making residents [especially vulnerable](#).
 - Low-income residents and people of color are at [higher heat risk](#) in the center of Milwaukee and along highways. A 2023 mapping campaign [found](#) that heavily developed urban areas of Milwaukee stayed about 10 degrees warmer at night than other parts of the city during hot summer days.
- By 2050, the state [expects](#) to see 20 to 30 more days at 90 degrees or above annually, and by 2100, [Wausau](#) and [La Crosse-Eau Claire are](#) expected to see average summer highs increase by 9.8 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Milwaukee was [ranked](#) among the top 40 fastest-warming U.S. cities. 7,000 people in Milwaukee [live](#) in census tracts with an urban heat island index of nine degrees or hotter, and [50,549 K-12 public school students](#) suffer from extreme urban heat of eight degrees Fahrenheit or more.
 - During a June 2025 heatwave, hospitals in Milwaukee County [experienced](#) a surge in emergency room visits, with 80 heat-related cases.
- In 2024, Wisconsin saw its [warmest winter on record](#), with average temperatures nearly [ten degrees warmer](#) than average. Milwaukee and Green Bay [experienced](#) two of the five fastest-warming winters in major U.S. cities over the past half-century, with average temperatures rising around 6 degrees Fahrenheit.
- As of 2021, Wisconsin had experienced a decade of its wettest years on record. Average precipitation has [increased](#) by 17%, or about five inches, since 1950.
 - Southern Wisconsin has been [especially vulnerable](#) to rainfall increases. This area's infrastructure was not built for the volume and intensity of

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precipitation, resulting in damaging floods that threaten residents' health and safety.

- Between 1999 and 2020, coal-fired power plants in Wisconsin were responsible for [5,700 excess deaths](#).
- In 2023, 102 facilities in Wisconsin [reported](#) more than 25,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, including the Elm Road Generating Station in Oak Creek, which emitted more than 5.8 million metric tons.
- In August 2025, southeastern Wisconsin [experienced](#) its worst flash flooding event since 2008, considered a one-in-1,000-year flood, resulting in four cities setting record single-day rainfall records and causing roadways and homes to flood.

CLIMATE CHANGE HARMS WISCONSIN'S HEALTH

- As of 2025, 5,910,955 people live in Wisconsin, all of whom are at risk from air pollution, [including](#) those with asthma, lung cancer, and the elderly.
 - The Sheboygan metropolitan area was [ranked](#) 24th for high ozone and the Milwaukee-Racine-Waukesha metropolitan area was [ranked](#) 26th for high ozone days in 2024.
- In July 2025, Canadian wildfire smoke placed [millions of people](#) in northern Wisconsin under air quality advisories. The fine particle pollution reached levels that were considered unhealthy for sensitive groups.
- Wildfires that [burned](#) in the Western U.S. and Canada during the summer of 2021 caused Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources to issue air quality advisories for 10 days spanning late July and early August. Wisconsin had not [seen](#) such persistent wildfire smoke impacting fine particulate pollution levels in over a decade.
- In Madison's 2024 water quality report, half of the city's wells [tested positive](#) for at least one PFAS chemical.
- A 2022 [study](#) found that people of color in Wisconsin are more likely to be [exposed](#) to harmful air pollution than white people, creating the third-largest disparity in the country. People of color in Wisconsin are [exposed](#) to 44% percent more particulate matter pollution from industrial sources, with Black residents exposed to 67% more pollution.
- In 2017, Milwaukee started replacing its 73,000 lead water service lines. Six years later, around [67,000 of the water lines are still in use](#). In Wisconsin, communities of color and low-income families are [disproportionately affected](#) by lead poisoning.

CLIMATE CHANGE HURTS WISCONSIN'S ECONOMY

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- Climate change is estimated to [cost](#) Wisconsin \$5,178,650,000 a year by 2100.
- A 2017 study found that climate change is [projected](#) to cause a 9.75% loss in crop yields in Wisconsin, including a 24% loss in grains.
- Wisconsin is [home](#) to about 5,500 dairy farms and 1.28 million cows, which [contribute](#) \$45.6 billion to the state's economy each year. [Dairy cows](#) are particularly sensitive to heat stress, which reduces production yields.
- The Great Lakes support Wisconsin's [\\$9.4 billion a year](#) recreational boating industry, but Great Lakes flooding has [impacted](#) beaches, marinas, and tourism in Wisconsin. A 2021 report found that Great Lakes communities in Wisconsin would [spend](#) around \$245 million over the next 5 years to repair damage from climate change. Wisconsin's Great Lakes communities had already [spent](#) at least \$86 million to repair damage from climate change.
- As of August 2021, about [20% of the state's workforce](#), or 591,367 people, worked outdoors. Due to extreme heat, these workers could lose up to [\\$1.2 billion](#) in earnings every year.
- In 2023, outdoor snow-related activities generated nearly [\\$92 million](#) for Wisconsin's economy. But climate change is [threatening](#) Wisconsin's winter activities by creating warmer winters and reducing snowfall levels. These changes limit activities like ice fishing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and skiing, and impact local restaurants and hotels that depend on winter recreation.
 - In 2017, warming temperatures brought on by climate change [canceled](#) the American Birkebeiner in northwestern Wisconsin, the largest cross-country ski marathon in North America.
 - In 2024, the American Birkebeiner celebrated its 50th anniversary but faced [delays and changes](#) due to insufficient snowfall and warmer weather. In 2025, the event faced minor [challenges](#) for the same reason. The marathon generates nearly [\\$25 million of economic impact](#) for the Hayward, WI region annually.
- In 2023, Wisconsin's fishing and boating industry generated [\\$928 million](#). However, climate change is raising water temperatures in Wisconsin's streams and lakes and [threatening](#) wildlife and fish habitats.
 - If summer temperatures in Wisconsin rise as currently expected, scientists project that by 2050, trout habitat in streams will decline across the state by 32% for Brown Trout and by 68% for Brook Trout, two [commonly](#) fished species of fish in Wisconsin.
- 2023 was Wisconsin's second-warmest winter on record (behind 2024), with an annual snowfall decline of 20 to 60 inches in parts of the state. The lack of snow and warmer temperatures [impacted](#) winter recreation businesses as snowmobile trails and outdoor ice skating rinks were forced to stay closed.

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- Between 2019 and 2024, home insurance rates in Wisconsin [increased by 39%](#). In 2024 alone, home insurance rates in Wisconsin [increased by 16%](#), placing the state among the top 10 for rate increases. From 2020 to 2023, the nonrenewal rate in Wisconsin [increased by 75%](#).
 - From 2021 to 2024, homeowner insurance premiums in Milwaukee increased by [20%](#), \$296 annually.
 - Wisconsin was projected to see insurance rate increases in 2025, with the average annual premium expected to [increase by \\$158](#), or 8%.
- A 2025 report found that [13%](#) of Wisconsin homes were uninsured, 212,888 total.
 - Latino and Black homeowners nationwide were disproportionately at risk of having no homeowners' insurance, with respective uninsured rates of [14%](#) and [11%](#), compared to [6%](#) of white homeowners.
 - Black and Hispanic people [made](#) up 37.8% and 20.1% of the population of Wisconsin's [largest](#) city, Milwaukee.