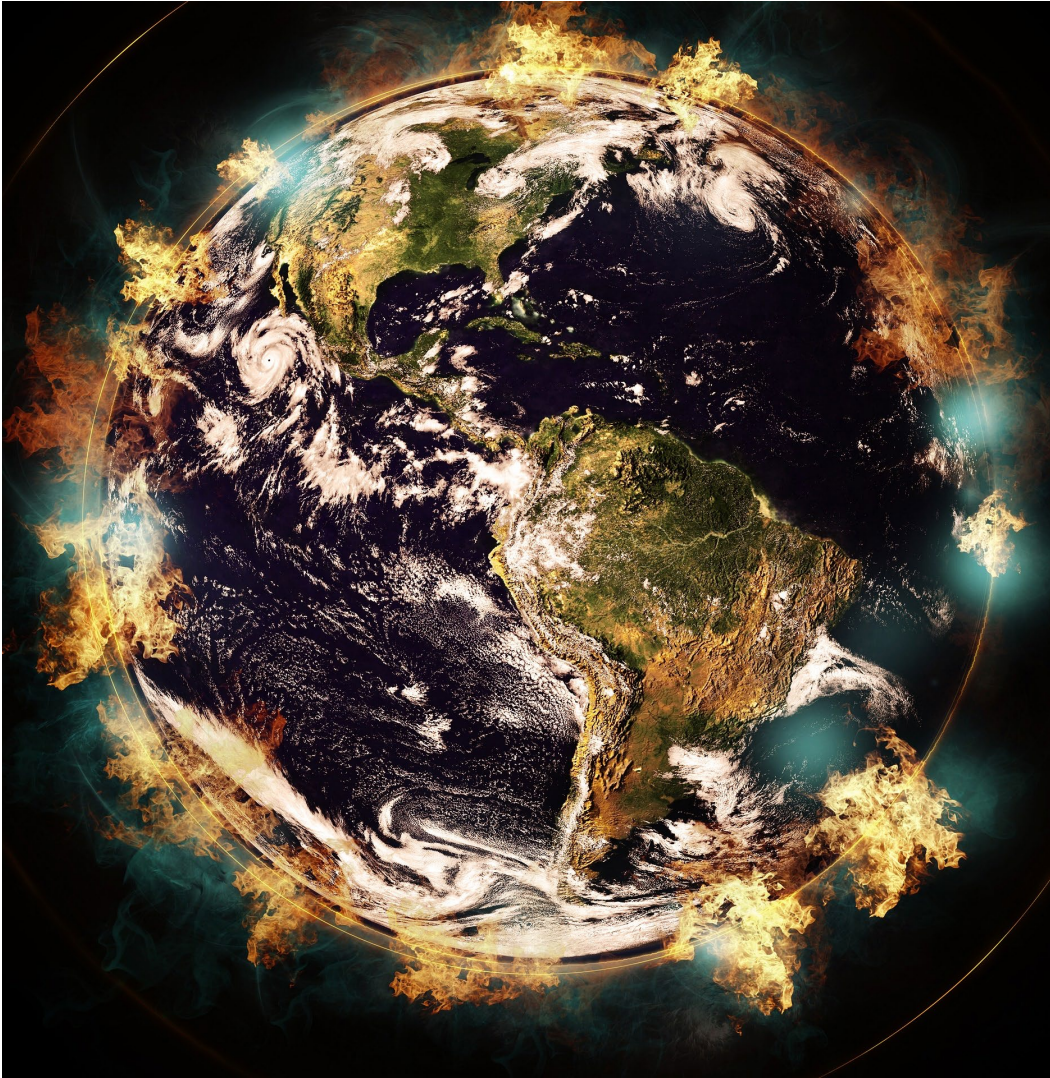


Climate Change in 2018



<https://pixabay.com/en/earth-destruction-environment-1839348/>

Gallery Walk: Climate Disruption in 2018

JANUARY



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mtaphotos/25636084978>

In January 2018 a powerful blizzard hit North America causing significant disruptions along the East Coast. The storm dumped snow and ice in southern states that usually don't get wintry precipitation. In the mid-Atlantic states, it produced snowfall accumulations of over 2 feet. The storm came to be known as the "historic bomb cyclone."

FEBRUARY



http://hypotheticaltornadoes.wikia.com/wiki/Mid-February_2018_tornado_outbreak?file=879.gif.png

On February 7, a series of thunderstorms moved across Alabama, producing large hail, destructive winds, and six tornadoes. The storms also produced flash flooding and river flood warnings. Later that month, another tornado outbreak in Texas and Louisiana was widely considered to be the strongest February outbreak ever.

MARCH



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Landslide in Cusco, Peru - 2018.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Landslide_in_Cusco,_Peru_-_2018.jpg)

A major landslide near Cusco Peru in early March, destroyed over 100 houses, a school, a clinic, fields and highways. The government declared a state of emergency. According to officials the landslide was caused by heavy rains and the high level of saturation of water in the earth.

APRIL



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Theewaterskloof sandscape 2018-03-11.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Theewaterskloof_sandscape_2018-03-11.jpg)

In early 2018 Cape Town, South Africa, was experiencing a severe water shortage due to insufficient rainfall and fast declining Theewaterskloof reservoir levels (image). The area had gone without significant rains for over three years.

MAY



<https://pixabay.com/en/storm-thunder-lightning-dark-sky-2258182/>

In May, 2018, devastating winds, thunder and lightning, swept across India's northern states, whipping up some of the deadliest dust storms in decades. High-speed winds and lightning wreaked havoc. The storm devastated villages, killing well over 200 people and leaving many injured.

JUNE



<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/i-a-s-not-just-sizzling-its-sultry-why-californias-july-heat-wave-is-so-weird/>

The 2018 North American heat wave lasted from June 28 through October 4 and affected regions of Canada, the U.S., and Mexico. Heat advisories were issued to over 60 million people across the continent. In Halifax, Nova Scotia, the heat wave contributed to a record-breaking number of hot days, and in Quebec at least 70 deaths were heat related.

JULY



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:2018_Carr_Fire_\(42286511740\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:2018_Carr_Fire_(42286511740).jpg)

In late July, a spark from a trailer's flat tire scraping the asphalt in an already bone dry part of California set off one of the most destructive wildfires in that state's history. The fire killed seven people, destroyed over 1,000 homes and wasn't 100 percent contained till August 30th.

AUGUST



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pala_during_2018_Kerala_floods_02.jpg

In August, severe monsoon flooding hit the state of Kerala, India. Weeks of unusually heavy rainfall led to decisions to open the Idukki Dam floodgates. This triggered landslides in the mountains and swamped coastal areas. It was the worst flooding in a century. More than a million people were displaced.

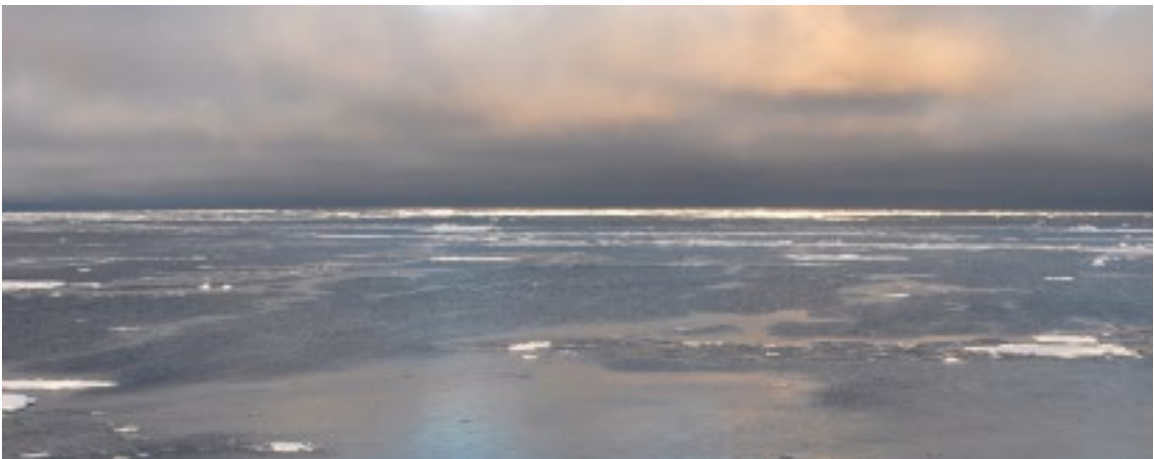
SEPTEMBER



<https://www.voachinese.com/a/bilingual-news-20190917/4574930.html>

Hurricane Florence brought catastrophic flooding to the Carolinas in the second half of September, killing over 50 people and shattering all-time rain and flood records. Whole neighborhoods were submerged as people got trapped in their flooded homes, and needed to be rescued by boat.

OCTOBER



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/72/Thin_Ice_%284371017418%29.jpg

In the Arctic, on top of the world, the oldest and thickest sea ice has started to break up, opening waters that have traditionally been frozen year round. This unprecedented phenomenon occurred twice in 2018 as a result of warm winds and a climate-change driven heat wave in the summer months.

NOVEMBER



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/silkebaron/5113682985/in/photostream/>

At the end of November, a record-breaking heat wave in Queensland, Australia, fueled unprecedented bushfires and dust storms, and killed thousands of flying foxes on land. The accompanying marine heat wave increased the risk of further bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef, weakening a rich underwater ecosystem that is home to countless other marine life.

DECEMBER



<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/blogs/earthmatters/category/natural-hazards/>

With continued ocean and atmospheric warming causing sea levels to rise, a large swath of Pacific Island Nations, including Mango Island, Ha'apai, Tonga (image) is slowly disappearing as it "sinks" into the ocean and becomes uninhabitable.

Read Aloud: Recent Action on Climate Change

Read out loud this list of recent or ongoing efforts around the world to combat climate change:

1. Clean technology is growing, improving and getting cheaper. Wind turbines and solar energy technology are expanding. Carbon-emitting coal plants are closing down. This is happening even in the U.S., despite the Trump administration's promises to reinvigorate the ailing coal industry.
2. Though the Trump administration continues to downplay climate change and has reversed many Obama era environmental regulations, Americans' support for aggressive action on climate change appears to be growing. Voters increasingly support regulating greenhouse gases and promoting renewable energy goals. According to a January 2018 Pew Research Center poll, 46 percent of Americans felt climate change should be a top priority for the President and Congress.
3. In the U.S. midterm elections, several candidates for office ran on clean energy ambitions. They used their climate advocacy to distinguish themselves, and won.
4. Environmental activists around the U.S. this year pushed their representatives to back an ambitious climate change solution dubbed "The Green New Deal," which is about "decarbonizing" the economy; moving it away from fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions, and ensuring that there are jobs for everyone as we make this transition.
5. Though President Trump pulled the U.S. out of the 2015 Paris climate agreement (which commits countries to curbing carbon emissions and investing in green technology), more than 80 mayors of cities across the U.S. pledged to continue following the Paris Agreement guidelines.
6. Internationally, a "Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy" is an alliance of cities and local governments with a shared long-term vision of action to combat climate change and move to a low-emission, resilient society.
7. Cities are increasingly encouraging urban commuters to avoid driving through better access to bike-sharing fleets, electric scooters, and additional bicycle lanes that more effectively connect people to improved public transportation. In large cities across the world, "congestion pricing" discourages driving, leading to reduced tailpipe emissions
8. In September 2018, California's governor Jerry Brown committed his state to become fully carbon-neutral by 2045. He pledged to reduce and offset carbon

emissions by extracting as many greenhouse gases from the atmosphere as it emits. California is the world's fifth-largest economy.

9. China runs the world's largest carbon-trading market. Simply put, the government assigns carbon credits – the amount of carbon emission a company is allowed (the “cap”). Those who emit less than what they're allotted can sell their credits to companies that exceed their limit (the “trade”).
10. In 2018, several global corporate giants signed record-breaking agreements to purchase renewable energy to power their operations. Their demand for clean energy is forcing utility companies to respond. One of the biggest utility companies in the U.S., Xcel Energy Inc, pledged that it would go completely carbon free by 2030.
11. The world's fourth-largest global oil company, Exxon Mobil, supported lobbying efforts to advance the case for carbon tax. It was supported behind the scenes by fifth largest oil company, Shell.
12. Catholic organizations in the U.S. stepped up their climate advocacy in 2018 by opposing the Trump administration's rollback of U.S. environmental regulations. The “Catholic Climate Declaration” stated: “As Catholic communities, organizations, and institutions in the United States, we join with state, tribal, and local governments, as well as businesses, financial institutions, and other faith organizations, to declare that we are still in on actions that meet the climate goals outlined in the Paris Agreement.” Catholic institutions around the country signed the declaration.
13. In November 2018, a pioneering lawsuit by a group of 21 youth activists against the U.S. government finally won the right to a trial. The kids are suing the U.S. government for failing to adequately protect the planet from the impact of climate change.
14. In December, diplomats from nearly 200 countries came together in Poland in an attempt to keep the 2015 Paris climate agreement alive. After almost two weeks of negotiations they reached a deal, in which a detailed set of rules was adopted to implement the 2015 agreement. The agreement created a uniform set of standards for measuring climate warming emissions and tracking national climate policies. It also calls on countries to step up their plans to cut carbon emissions ahead of the following round of talks in 2020.