

Some Effects of Climate Change in Michigan

More and Hotter Summer Days	
Michigan is expected to have more days over 90 degrees Fahrenheit and 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Heat waves already kill more people in the U.S. each year than hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and lightning combined. Those most at risk are the elderly, infants, people with chronic medical conditions, and individuals with mental illness, asthma and other respiratory illnesses.	Increased air conditioning is expensive both in terms of money and energy. On the other hand, a hotter longer summer may benefit some businesses.
Increased Storms and Flooding	
Increased rainfall can lead to more flooding, delays in planting spring crops, and a declining water quality in rivers, streams, and storage reservoirs.	Adapting to the potential for increased flooding may require changes in flood control. This can provide new jobs, but it also requires some tax money.
Drought	
With a warmer climate, droughts could become more frequent, severe, and longer-lasting.	This can affect agriculture across the state, with impacts on the need for irrigation and increased groundwater and lake withdrawals.
Decreased Water Levels	
Water levels in the Great Lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands may decline in the summer and winter. The greatest declines are expected for Lake Huron and Lake Michigan.	Declining water levels would affect shipping, sport fishing, and recreational boating. It can also have an impact on construction near what is now the waterfront.
Less Ice Cover	
Rising temperatures is causing less ice cover during winter months. Declines in ice cover on the Great Lakes and inland lakes are expected to continue.	Less ice cover may mean that more winter precipitation may be in the form of rain, not snow. This can have an impact on snow-related tourism activities, as well as the cost of snow removal.
More Winter Thaws/Late Frosts	
With less ice cover, the lake may have less effect in delaying the budding of fruit trees.	If that happens, the combination of an early winter thaw followed by a late frost may destroy fruit crops more frequently

Adapted from Michigan Department of Community Health (2011)