

Six Reasons Why We Should Prepare for Climate Change in Michigan



Human Health

Those most at risk are the elderly, infants, people with chronic medical conditions, and individuals with mental illness, asthma and other respiratory illnesses.

Hotter Days

The 20 warmest years in the U.S. have occurred since 1981. Ten of the warmest years occurred in the past 12 years. 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.

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.

Drought

With a warmer climate, droughts could become more frequent, severe, and longer-lasting.

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.

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.

Source: Michigan Department of Community Health (2011)