

Climate Outlook

It's clear from the UN assessment that the current climate trajectory is looking bleak and will place heavy pressure on governments to act later this year. Beyond that, a level of climate disruption is inevitable meaning sustained ongoing pressure on government policy and underlining the need for effective sector responses.

What we're seeing

Latest UN assessment is bleak

"Unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to 1.5°C will be impossible, with catastrophic consequences for people and the planet on which we depend." UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

Uncertainty of tipping points

There is a concern that climate tipping points will be breached that create unprecedented flood, drought and storm events. One area of concern, the polar jet stream, is already responding to warming temperatures.

Climate threatens sport

Sport will need to adjust both to a climate that threatens activity and societal expectations for change. A recent report concluded that "after 2030, any global sports events or tours that are not carbon zero should be cancelled or postponed until they are...National federations that had not made sufficient progress could be excluded from international competition by their sports federations."

Change is already occurring, and will continue

Winter 2021 was New Zealand's warmest on record at 1.32°C degrees above average. It well exceeding the previous record that was set just last year.

Rate of climate change is increasing

The rate of global ice loss, 1.2 trillion tonnes a year, has risen 57 per cent since 1996. Mountain glaciers have lost 6.1 trillion tonnes in that time ensuring continued use of ski-resort snow cannons.

Criticality of the Glasgow Conference

Chatham House report concludes that unless government action is dramatically increased many significant climate change impacts are likely to be locked in by 2040, and "become so severe they go beyond the limits of what nations can adapt to".

NZ Climate Change Commission response critical

The Commission's for "transformational and lasting change across [NZ] society and the economy" is unsurprising given the scientific evidence. If the government responds to its call for "strong and decisive action now", then climate will be the guiding lens for all policy post the Covid response.

More information (links)

- [UN Agencies Present Latest Climate Science](#)
- [It's the warmest winter on record - again](#)
- [Climate change risk assessment 2021](#)
- [Trajectories of the Earth System in the Anthropocene](#)
- [The jet stream has started an unprecedented shift north, which could wreak havoc on weather in the US and Europe](#)
- [Review article: Earth's ice imbalance](#)
- [Science leaves no wiggle room for climate 'balance'](#)

Implications

Create

- **Emphasis on transitioning manufacturing processes to circular-economic models.**
- **Potentially some products re-shored to reduce length of carbon-intensive supply chains.**

Relate

- **Increased appreciation of connection with wider eco-systems.**
- **Heightened interest in activities associated with positive ecological results.**

Consume

- **Accelerated demand for suppliers of all experiences, services and products to demonstrate ecological sensitivity.**

Degrade

- **Impacts viability of sport and recreation activity e.g. int. events, facility maintenance**
- **Mental health impacts for event-impacted communities and the long-term climate concerned.**

Connect

- **Focus on technologies supporting low-carbon connection.**
- **Acceleration of active-transport led urban-designs.**
- **Reduction in carbon-intensive travel e.g. international flights**

Define

- **Demands of climate change adaption and mitigation impact all government policy areas.**
- **International relations and good-will determined by perceived climate response.**