

UN climate report predicts a dire climate outlook

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
Associated Press

Deadly with extreme weather now, climate change is about to get so much worse. It is likely going to make the world sicker, hungrier, poorer, gloomier and way more dangerous in the next 18 years with an “unavoidable” increase in risks, a new United Nations science report says.

And after that watch out. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report said on Monday that if human-caused global warming isn’t limited to just another couple tenths of a degree, an Earth now struck regularly by deadly heat, fires, floods and drought in future decades will degrade in 127 ways, with some being “potentially irreversible.”

“The cumulative scientific evidence is unequivocal: Climate change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health,” says the major report designed to guide world leaders in their efforts to curb climate change. Delaying cuts in heat-trapping carbon emissions and waiting on adapting to warming’s impacts, it warns, “will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.”

Today’s children who may still be alive in the year 2100 are going to experience four times more climate extremes than they do now even with only a few more tenths of a degree of warming over today’s heat. But if temperatures increase nearly 2 more degrees Celsius from now (3.4 degrees Fahrenheit) they would feel five times the floods, storms, drought and heat waves, according to the collection of scientists who are part of the panel.

Already at least 3.3 billion people’s daily lives “are highly vulnerable to climate change” and 15 times more likely to die from extreme weather, the report says. Large numbers of people are being displaced by worsening weather extremes. And the world’s poor are being hit by far the hardest, it says.

More people are going to die each year from heat waves, diseases, extreme weather, air pollution and starvation because of global warming, the report says. Just how many people die depends on how much heat-trapping gas from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas gets spewed into the air and how the world adapts to an ever-hotter world, scientists say.

“Climate change is kill-



John Locher/AP Photo

Shayanne Summers holds her dog, ‘Toph,’ while wrapped in a blanket after several days of staying in a tent at an evacuation center at the Milwaukie-Portland Elks Lodge amid wildfires that impacted the state in September 2020.

ing people,” said co-author Helen Adams of King’s College London. “Yes, things are bad, but actually the future depends on us, not the climate.”

With every tenth of a degree of warming, many more people die from heat stress, heart and lung problems from heat and air pollution, infectious diseases, illnesses from mosquitoes and starvation, the authors say.

The report lists mounting dangers to people, plants, animals, ecosystems and economies, with people at risk in the millions and billions and potential damages in the trillions of dollars. The report highlights people being displaced from homes, places becoming uninhabitable, the number of species dwindling, coral disappearing, ice shrinking and rising and increasingly oxygen-depleted and acidic oceans.

Some of these risks can still be prevented or lessened with prompt action.

“Today’s IPCC report is an atlas of human suffering and a damning indictment of failed climate leadership,” United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement. “With fact upon fact, this report reveals how people and the planet are getting clobbered by climate change.”

The panel of more than 200 scientists puts out a series of these massive reports every five to seven years, with this one, the second of the series, devoted to how climate change affects people and the planet. Last August the science panel published a report on the latest climate science and projections for future warming, branded “code red” by the United Nations.

Climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe of The Nature Conservancy, who wasn’t part of the latest report, calls it the “Your House is on Fire” report.

“There’s real existential threats,” report co-chair

Debra Roberts of South Africa said.

Since the last version of this impacts panel’s report in 2014, “all the risks are coming at us faster than we thought before,” said report co-author Maarten van Aalst, a climate scientist for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, mentioning floods, droughts and storms. “More of it will get really bad much sooner than we thought before.”

“Every bit of warming matters. The longer you wait ... the more you will pay later,” said report co-chair Hans-Otto Poertner of Germany.

Since 2008, weather disasters have forced about 20 million people a year out of their homes as climate change refugees, with the future looking even grimmer in some places, according to the report.

By 2050, a billion people will face coastal flooding risk from rising seas, the report says. More people will be forced out of their homes from weather disasters, especially flooding, sea level rise and tropical cyclones.

“Some regions that are presently densely populated will become unsafe or uninhabitable,” the report says. And it says that small islands face that “overarching significant risk” of no longer being livable.

And eventually in some places it will become too hot for people to work outdoor, which will be a problem for raising crops, said report co-author Rachel Bezner Kerr of Cornell University.

Some of these climate change harms have been warned about for years, even decades, and have become reality, now written in the past and present tenses. Others are still warnings about future woes fast approaching.

Monday’s 36-page summary, condensed from more than 1,000 pages of analysis, was written by scientists and then edited line-by-line

by governments and scientists with that final summary approved by consensus Saturday during a two-week virtual conference that occurred while Russia invaded Ukraine. In the final hours, a Ukrainian delegate made an impassioned plea that the war not overshadow the climate change report, some authors said.

“Climate change isn’t lurking around the corner waiting to pounce. It’s already upon us raining down blows on billions of people,” United Nations Environment Programme Director Inger Andersen said.

Study authors said much of Africa, parts of Central and South America, small islands and South Asia are “hot spots” for the worst harm to people and ecosystems.

The report has a new emphasis on the mental health toll climate change has taken, both on people displaced or harmed by extreme weather and on people’s anxiety level, especially youths worried about their futures.

If the world warms just another nine-tenths of a degree Celsius from now (1.6 degrees Fahrenheit), the amount of land burned by wildfires globally will increase by 35%, the report says.

And the rest of the living world won’t be spared either, with the report warning of climate change extinctions. Already two species — the mammal Bramble Cay melomys in Australia and Central America’s golden toad — have gone extinct because of climate change.

“The risk of extinction in biodiversity hotspots increases by about tenfold as warming rises from 1.5 to 3 degrees Celsius,” said Poertner, the German co-chair.

OBITUARIES

Claudia J. Harper

Bend

June 12, 1933 — Feb. 16, 2022

Claudia J. Harper, former resident of Astoria, passed away Feb. 16, 2022, while recovering from hip surgery in Bend.

Born June 12, 1933, in San Francisco, Claudia was raised in the Bay Area and Hawaii.

She earned degrees at Pomona College and the University of California, Berkeley, and later went on to teach elementary school in Los Angeles for nearly 30 years.

Claudia retired to Astoria in 2000, where she found peace in the lush green surroundings after decades in Southern California. She was actively engaged in the community as a member of the Unitarian Church, and a dedicated member of the arts community as a writer, poet and photographer.

Claudia completed “Northwest Rainforest Pioneers,” a work of historical fiction on the early settlement of Clatsop County, and “Tour Astoria: Sights and Insights.” She con-

tributed poetry regularly to Rain, Clatsop Community College’s literary and arts magazine, and gave readings at the FisherPoets Gathering and Monday Mic at the River Theater.

In 2004, she was proud to have contributed to Clatsop County’s Cultural Plan to help secure funding for the arts through the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Claudia loved reading, listening and dancing to music and admiring flora and fauna.

In 2007, Claudia left Astoria to live with her youngest daughter. She had many adventures in California, Arizona, Maryland, and even India, before returning to Oregon in 2018.

She leaves behind seven children and 13 grandchildren.

Special thanks to the staff at Mount Bachelor Assisted Living in Bend, who assured her comfort and care during her last four years.

May she rest in peace.



Claudia Harper

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The Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day before publication.

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
54 47	50 41	49 40	50 40	51 38	50 37	50 38
Cloudy, a little rain	Rain	Periods of sun	A couple of showers	Periods of sun	Mostly cloudy	Cloudy

ALMANAC

Astoria through Sunday

Temperatures

High/low	54/48
Normal high/low	52/38
Record high	71 in 1968
Record low	21 in 1962
Precipitation	
Sunday	0.68"
Month to date	2.66"
Normal month to date	6.92"
Year to date	16.14"
Normal year to date	17.51"

Forecasts and graphics provided by
AccuWeather, Inc. ©2022

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight’s Sky: Pegasus, the flying horse, stands low in the west as darkness falls and sets by midnight.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 6:55 a.m.
Sunset tonight 6:02 p.m.
Moonrise today 6:57 a.m.
Moonset today 4:55 p.m.

	New	First	Full	Last
	Mar 2	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24

TODAY’S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
12:29 a.m.	7.7	6:08 a.m.	2.4	
11:55 a.m.	9.0	6:56 p.m.	-0.9	
Cape Disappointment				
12:11 a.m.	7.6	5:19 a.m.	2.8	
11:30 a.m.	9.1	6:04 p.m.	-0.9	
Hammond				
12:20 a.m.	7.8	5:41 a.m.	2.4	
11:43 a.m.	9.4	6:22 p.m.	-1.2	
Warrenton				
12:24 a.m.	8.1	5:52 a.m.	2.5	
11:50 a.m.	9.4	6:40 p.m.	-0.8	
Knappa				
1:06 a.m.	7.9	7:09 a.m.	2.1	
12:32 p.m.	9.2	7:57 p.m.	-0.8	
Depoe Bay				
10:44 a.m.	9.3	4:48 a.m.	2.8	
none		5:32 p.m.	-1.2	

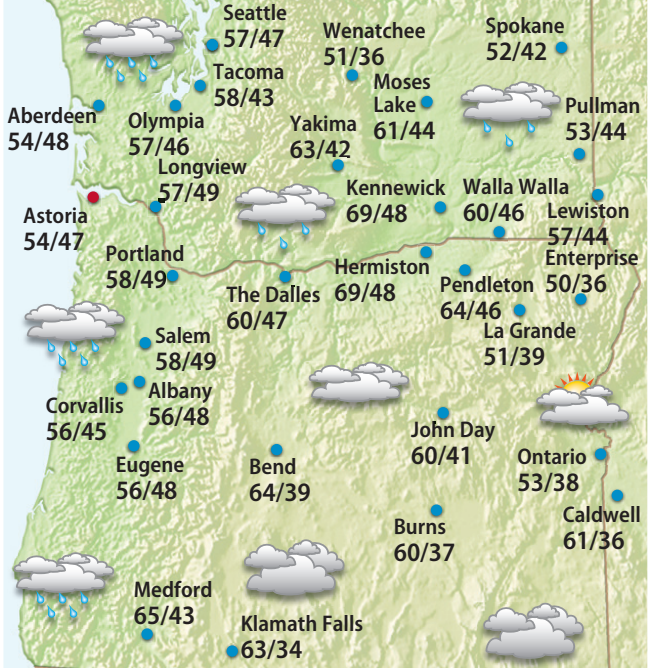
NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Low	Wed. Hi/Low
Atlanta	68/44/s	73/49/s
Boston	38/33/pc	43/30/pc
Chicago	47/31/c	51/30/c
Dallas	71/44/s	74/46/s
Denver	65/38/pc	69/40/pc
Honolulu	83/66/pc	82/67/pc
Houston	70/44/pc	72/46/s
Los Angeles	85/56/s	82/51/pc
Miami	82/66/s	80/67/s
New York City	46/36/pc	50/38/pc
Phoenix	84/55/s	87/60/s
San Francisco	65/48/c	63/51/c
Wash., DC	59/43/pc	63/43/pc
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.		

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REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today’s weather. Temperatures are today’s highs and tonight’s lows.



City	Today Hi/Low	Wed. Hi/Low	City	Today Hi/Low	Wed. Hi/Low
Baker City	43/32/c	45/32/c	North Bend	56/48/r	54/41/r
Brookings	54/48/r	53/43/r	Roseburg	61/49/r	53/42/r
Ilwaco	52/47/r	51/42/r	Seaside	54/47/r	51/40/r
Newberg	58/49/r	56/39/r	Springfield	58/48/r	53/41/r
Newport	52/47/r	51/42/r	Vancouver	57/51/r	54/41/r