

CLIMATE POWER

FACT SHEET: CLIMATE CHANGE HURTS PENNSYLVANIA

CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS PENNSYLVANIANS' SAFETY

- Between 2010 and 2024, Pennsylvania saw [73](#) billion-dollar extreme weather disasters, totaling up to [\\$20 billion](#) in damages. From January through June 2025, Pennsylvania has had [7](#) billion-dollar extreme weather disasters, totalling up to [\\$2 billion](#) in damages. In the past decade, Pennsylvania has received [\\$2,010,973,024](#) in FEMA disaster assistance funding.
- Pennsylvania [ranks](#) 5th in the nation for the greatest number of houses located in the “wildland-urban interface,” with [over 2 million](#) houses in these areas. Climate change could [shift](#) Pennsylvania’s wildfire season earlier in the year. Since 1973, Pennsylvania has experienced up to [six additional annual fire weather days](#) on average due to climate change.
- Philadelphia’s waters could rise by [3.4 feet](#) by 2100 if pollution goes unchecked. More than 6,000 people and 3,100 houses in Pennsylvania live in an area [at risk from severe flooding](#) in 2050.
- A 2023 flood in Bucks County [killed](#) seven people, with the Bucks County Fire Chief [saying](#) he had never seen anything like it in his 44 years of service.
- In July 2025, residents of areas in Lycoming County were [evacuated](#) due to flash flooding and mudslides after 4-6 inches of rain fell in a five-hour period. Muncy Creek rose to 12 feet, and flooding caused the closure of several roadways, forcing the [entire town](#) of Glen Mawr to evacuate.
- In the last twenty years, [Pennsylvania has witnessed three drought events](#), which caused a total of \$64.3 billion in damages and 233 deaths.
- In 2024, Bucks County [experienced](#) its worst drought in a generation, which [caused](#) brush fires.
- In summer 2024, the Lehigh Valley [experienced](#) several stretches of days of extreme heat, with temperatures rising above 90 degrees. Exposure to extreme heat [caused](#) at least one death.
- In September 2021, Hurricane Ida [caused](#) historic flooding in eastern and south-central Pennsylvania. The hurricane's rainfall ranged from five to ten inches and mostly fell within a six-hour period. Nearly 400 homes in southeastern Pennsylvania were [destroyed](#) or severely damaged, and another 400 were reported suffered minor damage.
- In July 2020, Tropical Storm Fay dropped about 5 inches of rain across the Lehigh Valley, [causing](#) flooding that stranded drivers, damaged properties, and forced evacuations. Flash flooding was [reported](#) in Philadelphia, and the Frankford Creek reached moderate flood stage.

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CLIMATE CHANGE HARMS PENNSYLVANIANS' HEALTH

- Philadelphia area residents face an additional [four to six heat waves](#) each year compared to 60 years ago. The urban heat island effect boosts temperatures by [at least 9 degrees Fahrenheit](#) for more than half a million people in Philadelphia, particularly endangering people of color and those living below the poverty line.
- Extreme heat can also put pregnant people [at risk](#) of complications, adverse birth outcomes, hospitalizations, and maternal morbidity. A 2025 report found that, on average from 2020 to 2024, Pennsylvania [experienced](#) 24 annual pregnancy heat-risk days (days that are hotter than 95% of local temperatures). 10 of these days were directly attributable to climate change.
- A 2023 study found that 76% of Pennsylvania rivers and streams and 65% of private wells were [contaminated](#) by PFAS, and a July 2025 study [found](#) PFAS in 18% of private wells in Pennsylvania. In 2024, testing [showed](#) 30 Pennsylvania schools with on-site wells had PFAS levels above the EPA standard, and recent testing [revealed](#) that four schools in Southeastern Pennsylvania had PFAS levels above the state's drinking water standard.
- The town of Horsham had a [PFAS chemical count](#) of more than 44 million parts per trillion (ppt) in 2014, which is thousands of times higher than EPA standards.
- In 2025, the Pittsburgh area [ranked](#) 12th nationally in worst year-round particle pollution and 16th in worst short-term particle pollution. Philadelphia was one of 27 counties nationwide that received a [failing grade](#) in ozone pollution, short-term particle pollution, and year-round particle pollution. There are 12,961,683 people [at risk](#) from air pollution in Pennsylvania, including those with asthma, lung cancer, and the elderly.
- In 2023, 236 [facilities](#) in Pennsylvania reported releasing more than 25,000 metric tons of harmful air pollution. Pennsylvania's largest emitter was the Lackawanna Energy Center in [Jessup](#), emitting 3,712,067 metric tons of toxic pollution. In 2018, the power plant [emitted](#) smoke containing nitrogen oxide, which is [linked to](#) respiratory illnesses.

CLIMATE CHANGE HURTS PENNSYLVANIA'S ECONOMY

- Climate change is projected to [cost](#) Pennsylvania \$18 billion a year by 2100.
- Pennsylvania is home to 19 national parks. However, climate hazards like high temperatures, heavy rainfall, and flooding risks [degrading](#) park trails and [impacting access](#).
- In September 2021, post-tropical cyclone Ida [brought](#) heavy rainfall and flooding to Pennsylvania, damaging and closing roads and trails in the Valley Forge National

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Historical Park. Hurricane Ida [caused](#) more than \$100 million in public infrastructure damage.

- Pennsylvania is [expected](#) to see a 23.15% loss in the total value of agricultural crop yields by late in the century (2080-2100) if action isn't taken to immediately curtail carbon emissions.
- Flooding is [considered](#) Pennsylvania's highest climate risk hazard. Due to increased rainfall and flooding, farmers may [face](#) revenue loss due to planting delays, damage from having to replant crops, and the inability to collect their harvest.
- July 2018 was the rainiest July in the previous 124 years, with 61 counties in the state [declaring](#) disaster. Flooding delayed harvests for Pennsylvania farmers into March 2019.
- In 2024, Bucks County [experienced](#) its worst drought in a generation, which [caused](#) brush fires and [significantly reduced](#) farmers' yields.