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Climate & Health News

Newsletter of the JHU-UPF Public Policy Center Climate Change Working Group



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NEWS

[Get public health involved: tougher climate policies could save 150 million lives](#)

A [new study](#) (Shindell et al, *Nature Climate Change*) finds premature deaths would fall on nearly every continent if governments made significant cuts in greenhouse gas emissions; benefits would be felt mostly in Asian countries with dirty air. The authors argue for greater involvement of doctors and public health professionals. – *The Washington Post*



Smoke billows from a steel factory in Hebei, China, in 2015. (Kevin Frayer/Getty Images)

[Bring cities into Paris accord](#)

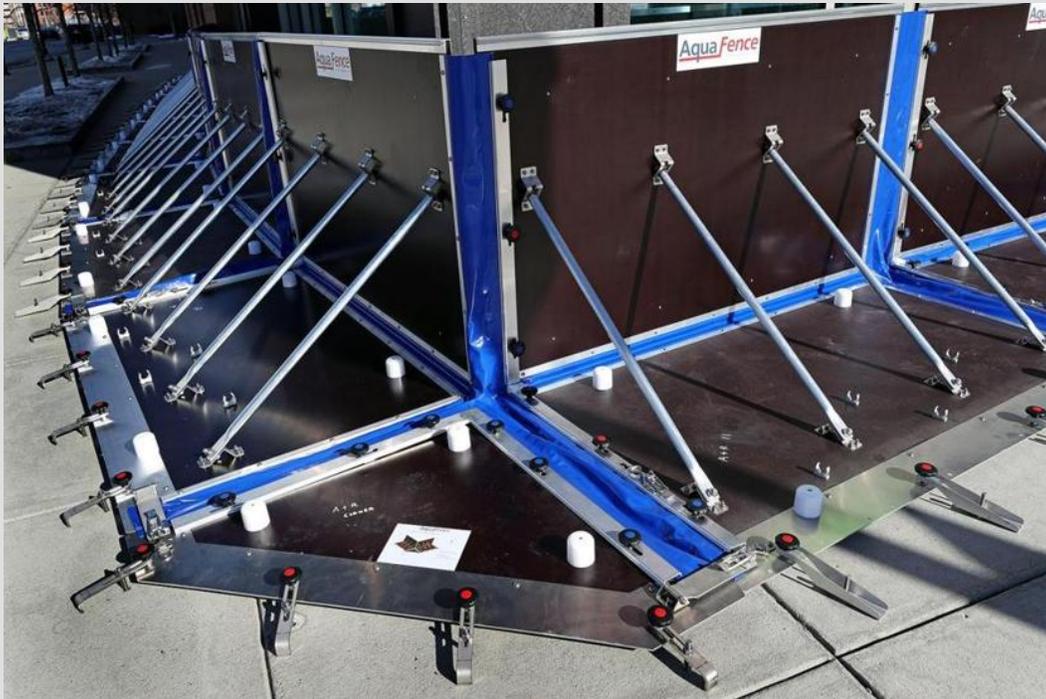
If the structure of the problem requires action by more than just national governments, why not accept signatures from other entities? An opinion piece that argues for an addendum to the 2015 Paris agreement providing a mechanism for subnational and corporate leaders to formally commit their organizations to action. – *Yale 360*



U.S. mayors gathered in Miami Beach in June 2017 to reaffirm their commitment to fighting climate change following President Trump's decision to exit the Paris Agreement. MAYOR GARCETTI/[FLICKR](#)

[Boston: Ad hoc planning doesn't work for climate change](#)

Boston is developing climate adaptation solutions through private deals and negotiations with developers, building by building. Massachusetts has proposed a \$1.4 billion bond bill to help cities plan for and manage the



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

Near A street in South Boston, the State Street Building has a flood-protecting AquaFence set up around the exterior.

[Phoenix: rethinking the 'world's least sustainable city'](#)

Phoenix gets little rainfall; most of its water comes from Rocky Mountain snow melt, which this winter was 70% lower than average. Last summer, flights were grounded because heat – which hit 47C (116F) – made air too thin to take off safely. While extreme, Phoenix is not alone; many cities need to rethink urban design and resource use. – *The Guardian* (from [“Overstretched Cities”](#) series)



[Vancouver: managing a future of drought?](#)

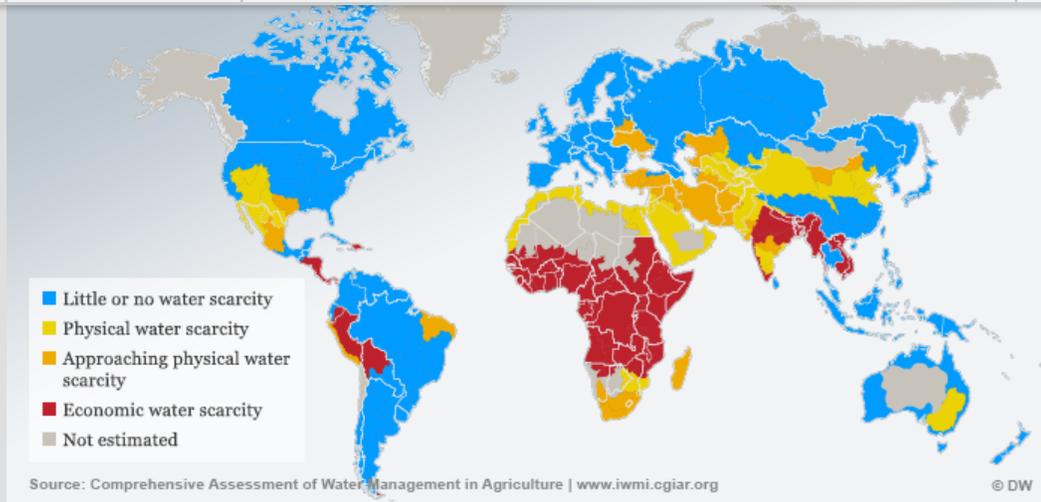
Rainy Vancouver could find itself short of water in coming decades, thanks to a growing population and climate change. Coastal cities can indeed run out of water, a risk also faced by Cape Town where taps could run dry this August. More efficient water use and pricing are needed. – *CBC News* (from "[Water at Risk](#)" series)



Even though Metro Vancouver is rainy in the winter and surrounded by water, population growth and climate change are expected to put a strain on its water supplies in the future. (Andy Clark/Reuters)

[Cities need to build resilient water infrastructure: World Water Forum](#)

How best to safeguard cities' water supplies in a more variable climate? With more intense floods and longer droughts, building water storage infrastructure will be essential to adaptation. An interview with Benedito Braga, President of the World Water Council. – *DW*



[Can litigation speed up mitigation?](#)

Courts worldwide are considering cases for damage from a changing climate. The UK government faces its first from a group called “Plan B,” while suits in the US have been brought against the administration by teenagers in Oregon and against international oil companies by San Francisco and Oakland (below). –

The Guardian

[Judge gets climate change lesson in cities vs oil companies lawsuit](#) – *SFGate*

[What Exxon knew about climate change: the road not taken](#) – *Inside Climate News*



90 firms are responsible for two-thirds of all emissions of fossil fuels. Photograph: Florian Gaertner/Photothek via Getty Images

[Warming Arctic increases risk of extreme weather in US](#)

When Arctic temperatures spike, extreme winter weather is 2 to 4 times more likely in Boston and New



Three extreme winter storms have hit the Northeast this month, dumping several feet of snow and in some areas bringing destructive coastal flooding. The Arctic, meanwhile, has had record warmth. Credit: Spencer Platt/Getty Images

EVENTS AND REPORTS

Conference: [Cities IPCC](#)

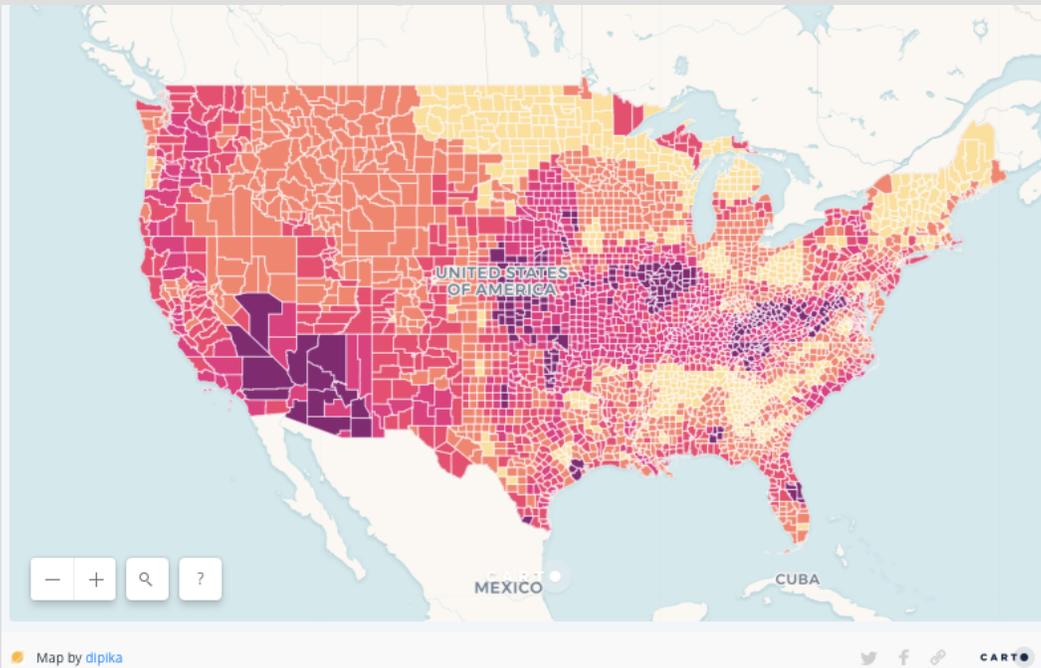
Hosted by the city of Edmonton (Canada), and co-sponsored by the IPCC, UN-HABITAT, FutureEarth, C40 and others, the March 5-7 Conference culminated with a global research agenda for cities and climate. Among priority areas were social transformation and inclusion, improving the evidence-base, and identifying finance solutions. The research inspired by the Conference will help inform a special IPCC report on cities.

Report: [Groundswell: Preparing for internal climate migration](#)

According to a new World Bank report, more than 140 million people may become “climate migrants” within their own countries, driven from homes by “slow-onset” climate changes including water shortages, crop failures and sea-level rise. At greatest risk are Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America.

Interactive map: [What vector-borne diseases are increasing where you live?](#)

With warming temperatures disease-carrying ticks have moved to locations where winters were



SCIENCE

[Linking disaster and climate adaptation frameworks](#)

Researchers propose a framework for understanding direct and indirect health risks of climate change and climate-sensitive disasters



In the Philippines, devastated by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. Photo credit: Dondi Tawatao/Getty Images

[Mainstreaming adaptation into public health practice](#)

Understanding how climate science can be translated into public health practice is an essential first step in enabling robust adaptation and improving resiliency to climate change. This review identified significant barriers to adaptation, and found most promising to be flexible adaptation approaches such as the US CDC's Building Resilient Against Climate Effects (BRACE) framework.

[Understanding impact of heat extremes in Asian cities](#)

Researchers examined temporal changes in mortality attributed to heat extremes in 57 cities of Taiwan, Korea, and Japan (1972-2012). Mortality risk on extreme heat days declined during the study period in all countries, however, increased during 2003-2012 compared with 1972-1981. Public health strategies should focus on temporal variation in heat-mortality association as well as changes in the distribution of heat extremes overtime.



Residents of Tokyo shade themselves. Photo AFP.

[Systematic review of temperature and childhood asthma](#)

Researchers aimed to summarize the relationship between absolute temperature and childhood asthma, and identify possible underlying mechanisms. Findings suggest discrepancy in significance of the relationship, in its shape (most evidence suggests non-linear) and whether temperature effects were lagged.

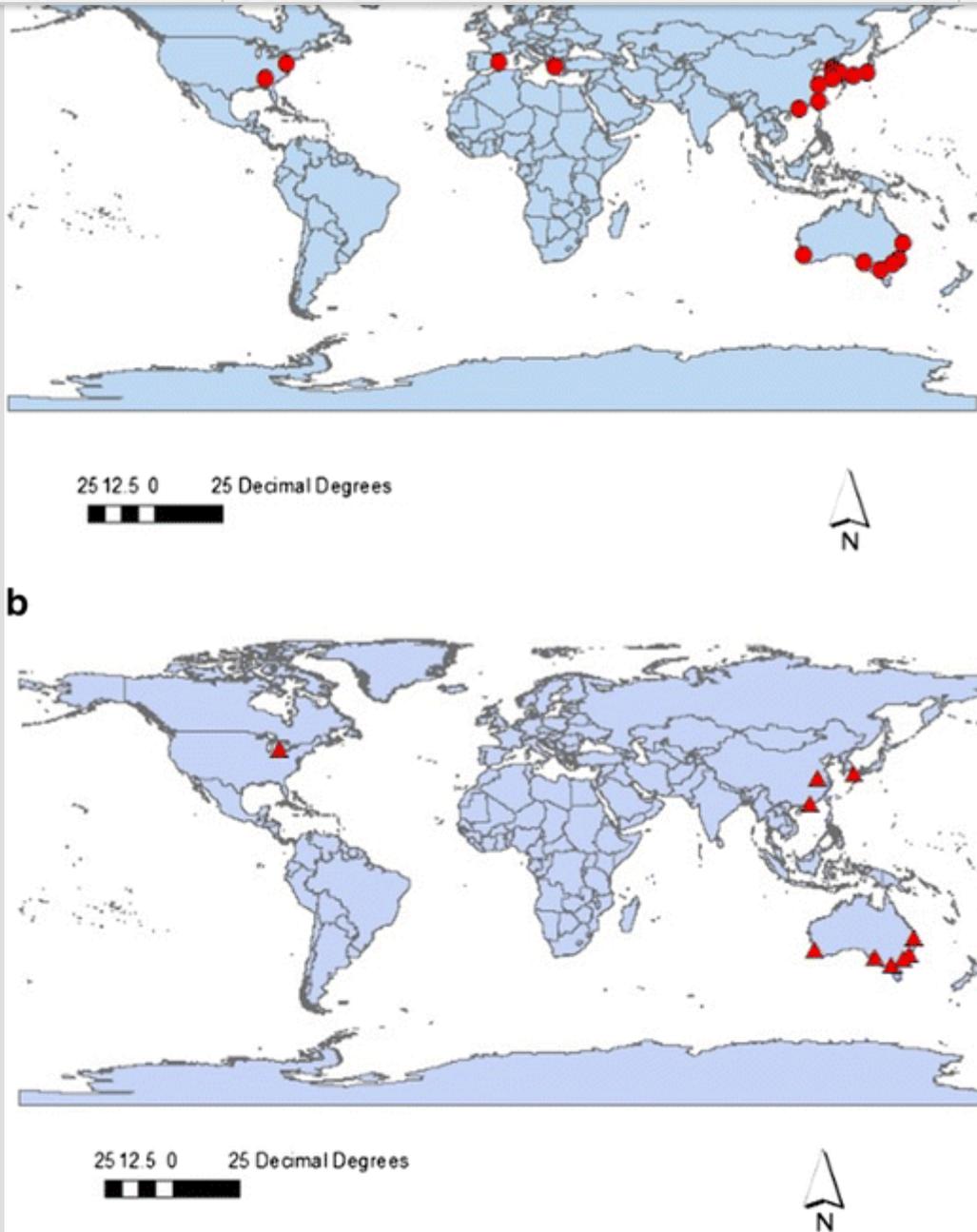


Fig. 2

a Absolute temperature and childhood asthma. **b** Temperature variation and childhood asthma

Xu et al. *The association between ambient temperature and childhood asthma: a systematic review*. *Int J Biometeorol*. 2018

Mar;62(3):471-481

[What heat indices best predict climate health risks?](#)

Researchers examined human heat stress indices for fit with hospital admissions for sets of cardiovascular, respiratory, and renal diseases across 5 Australian cities. Findings suggest heatwave and temperature indices had the best fit to cardiovascular admissions, humidity indices to respiratory admissions, and combined heat-humidity indices to renal admissions. Results were consistent across cities.



Mick Tsikas / Reuters



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