# **How is climate change impacting Connecticut?**

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in their 4th Assessment Report note that evidence of climate change is unequivocal, based on observations of increased global air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and globally rising sea levels. In Connecticut, a southern New England state bordered by Long Island Sound, climate change is translating into higher average air and sea temperatures, increased winter precipitation with more rain and less snow, less summer rainfall and a greater frequency of short-term droughts. Projected increases in sea level associated with a warming global climate (20 inches by 2050 for the Connecticut coast) will lead to increased coastal inundation, causing greater flooding, erosion, and impacts from storm surges. These changes in the regional climate and sea level will negatively impact both human and natural systems. The [6th IPCC Assessment](https://www.ipcc.ch/) is due out in Spring 2023.

Coastal areas will be especially hard hit with flooding and storms potentially degrading wetlands that now provide buffers to human communities, generating both increased property damage and impacts to wildlife. Rising water temperatures in Long Island Sound are already impacting fish populations in Long Island Sound. Warmer air temperatures and heat waves are impacting communities throughout the state, while changes in precipitation patterns are leading to stormwater issues.

The state of Connecticut has been working on climate change issues since 2015, when a mitigation strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions was developed. Recently, the GC3 (Governor's Council on Climate Change) was re-established and expanded to include adaptation and resilience, in addition to mitigation, in the face of climate change impacts.