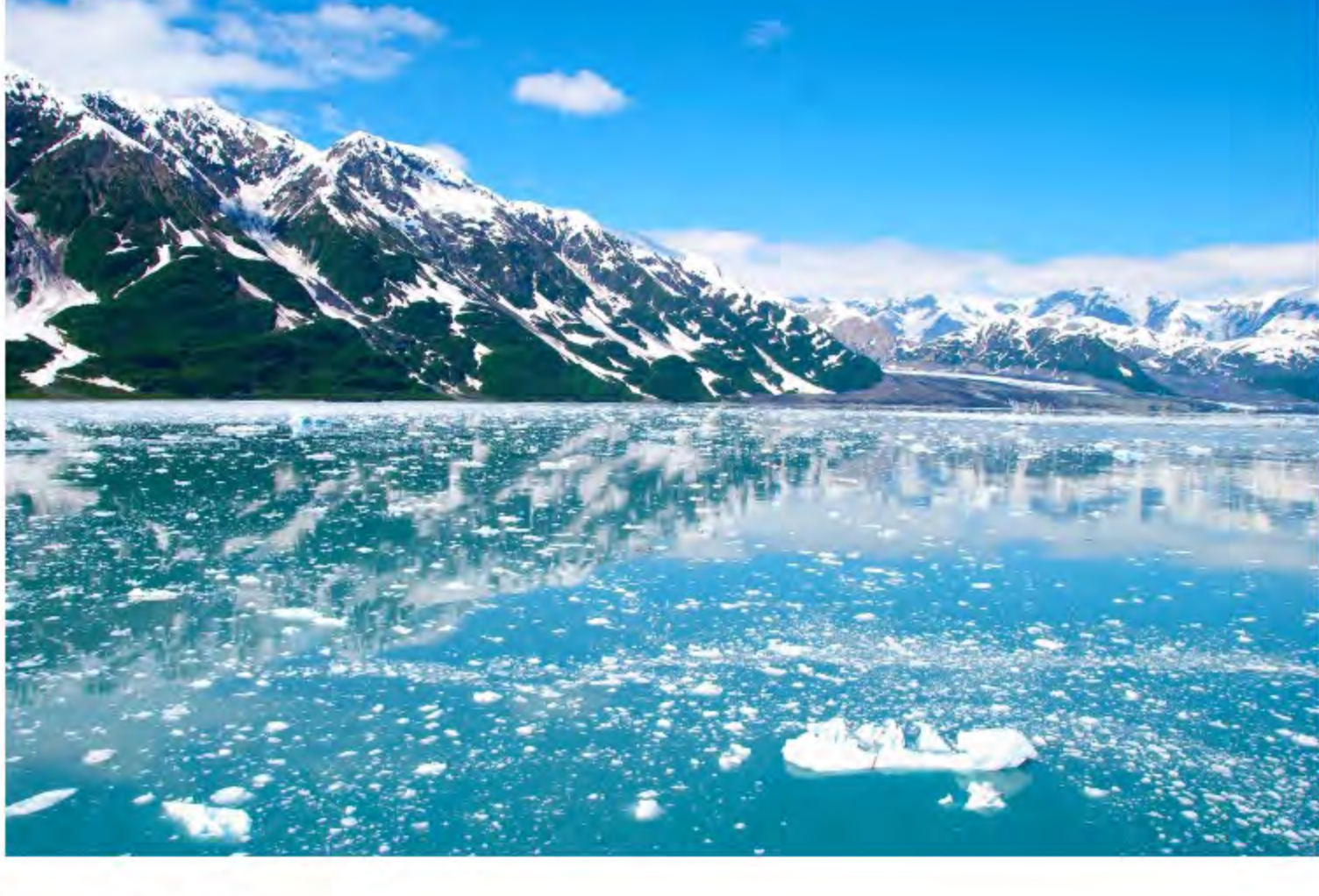


How Climate Change Impacts Our Water Supply

by 3p Contributor on Friday, Jan 20th, 2017 CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

SHARE





By Scott Huntington

The water cycle, the process by which water circulates through the planet's atmosphere and waterways, helps make life here on Earth possible.

Climate change, however, caused by excessive greenhouse gas emissions, is disrupting that process. It's creating a vicious cycle in which higher temperatures, changes in rainfall and water contamination cause environmental consequences that make global warming worse and damage the health of the planet further.

How Climate Change Impacts Earth's Water

Climate change causes various changes in our water supply, which sometimes leads to pollution and other problems.

Changes in rainfall

Increased temperatures caused by climate change raise the rate of evaporation from both land and oceans, as well as enable the atmosphere to hold more water by about 4 percent for every 1 degree Fahrenheit increase.

This added evaporation will dry out some areas and fall as excess precipitation in others. Generally, dry areas are expected to get drier while wet areas become wetter. This will lead to increasing instances of drought in some areas and more flooding in others.

Increased need for water

As temperatures rise and evaporation amplifies, so will the need for water for individuals, agriculture and industry. Rising population will add to this increased demand.

As certain areas experience more droughts, we'll have to more frequently transport water where it is needed. Rising water levels in other areas may necessitate infrastructure changes. Both of these essential measures may result in more emissions and more used energy.

A rise in sea levels

Melting ice caps, ice sheets and glaciers, as well as expanding warming waters, will lead to rising sea levels. This could harm coastal communities and various ecosystems, as well as contaminate fresh water supplies.

Rising sea levels could push saltwater into freshwater aquifers, making the water unusable for drinking or irrigation unless it's treated using an energy-intensive process.

Increased water pollution

High levels of rainfall could overwhelm and damage important infrastructure like sewer systems and water treatment plants and lead to polluted water, causing it to become brown or cloudy. Heavy precipitation could also lead to increased runoff of fertilizers, sediment, trash and other pollutants into water sources.

Impact of water pollution

Water pollution can have a multitude of negative effects on our environment, some of which can lead to even more problems and exacerbate climate change.

Stress on ecosystems

Increased levels of nutrients in water from things like fertilizer runoff can cause algae to grow at excessive rates. When this algae dies, bacteria can lower the level of oxygen in the water, creating dead zones where nothing can live.

Garbage that makes its way into ocean waters can also kill marine life that mistake it for food or get caught in it.

Chemical pollution can also harm or kill marine life. It can accumulate in sea creatures in increasing amounts as it moves up the food chain, eventually affecting humans.

Some scientists say ocean degradation could even cause a mass extinction event.

Worsened climate change

As water becomes a scarcer resource, we may need to treat this increasingly polluted water to make it useable. This process requires a lot of energy and could lead to more emissions.

Hope for the future

Climate change is having a negative impact on our water supply, ecosystems and quality. These problems in turn lead to more issues and the overall degradation of our environment.

The situation is clearly serious, but there are some things we can do.

Decreasing emissions by using less energy or switching to renewable energy helps to slow global warming. Turning lights off when not in use, driving less and insulating your home to make it more energy-efficient can all help reduce energy use.

Buying environmentally responsible products and eating a low-impact diet are other lifestyle changes that can have a positive impact.

Expressing your support for environmental protection can also help. You can make your voice heard by writing government officials, voting, posting about it online or simply talking with family and friends.

The effect that climate change has on our water is just one example of the impact it can have. It is becoming increasingly evident that we are at a critical point in time regarding our changing climate and the future of our planet.

Image credit: Pexels

Scott Huntington is a writer and blogger. Follow him on Twitter @SMHuntington.

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

Recent headlines from the **4393** articles in this category:

- How Climate Change Impacts Our Water Supply
- Could a Rick Perry DOE Threaten Jobs, Increase Energy Bills?
- The EPA Under Scott Pruitt: What Will it be Like?

TriplePundit
people, planet, profit

TriplePundit has published articles from over 1000 contributors. If you'd like to be a guest author, [please get in touch!](#)

 FOLLOW 3P CONTRIBUTOR @TRIPLEPUNDIT

Leave a Reply

You must be [logged in](#) to post a comment. [Register here](#) if you need an account.

Our sponsors





DOWNLOAD

3 Easy Steps:

1) Click "Download"

2) Download on our website

3) Get Free File Converter



Media Kit Access

Would your company like to join our conversation? We offer branded content, twitter chats, event promotion, custom content channels and more. [Learn more.](#)

Check out our newsletters

More than 30,000 subscribers get our daily and weekly updates. Join them now.

Email address

☒ Weekly Mailing List
☒ Daily Mailing List

Submit

Ready to comment? Register for an account below

Name*

First

Last

Email*

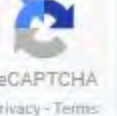
Enter Email

Confirm Email

Create your username*

Captcha

☐ I'm not a robot



After submitting this form, you must check your email for your password before logging in.

Register and log in

FOLLOW TRIPLE PUNDIT



Search our site

Search

WORK WITH US — MEET OUR TEAM —

[About 3p](#)
[Advertise with us](#)
[Contact us](#)
[Newsletter](#)
[Sponsored content policy](#)
[Write for us](#)
[Privacy policy](#)
[Legal](#)
[Sitemap](#)

[Founder: Nick Aster](#)
[Ed in Chief: Jen Boynton](#)
[Editor: Mary Mazzoni](#)
[Social Media: Marissa Rosen](#)
[Partnerships: Travis Noland](#)



TriplePundit is a Certified B Corp.



Offsets provided by ClimateCare. Use our [carbon calculator here](#)



TriplePundit's office is at Impact HUB San Francisco.

Start Download

Instant Free Download Go to [download.pdfconverterhq.com](#)

