Climate Change: What Should We All Do Now?

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www.ucsusa.org/underwater

Photo by Maureen Drennan



1 °C (1.8 °F) World







Waldo Canyon Fire 2012



Fig. 25.4: Climate Change Has Increased Wildfire







IPCC 2018 SR15 Fig FAQ 1.2



Fourth National Climate Assessment



Volume II Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States

Key Message #1

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Since the Third National Climate Assessment, a growing number of states, cities, and businesses have pursued or deepened initiatives aimed at reducing emissions.



Key Message #2



In the absence of more significant global mitigation efforts, climate change is projected to impose substantial damages on the U.S. economy, human health, and the environment.

Average projected changes in fishery catches within large marine ecosystems for 2041–2060 relative to 1991–2010 under a higher scenario (RCP8.5).



NCA4 Fig 9.2 adapted from Lam et al. 2016



EXTREME TEMPERATURE MORTALITY







Cumulative costs of sea level rise and storm surge



The Risks of Inaction

29 Key Message #2

Under scenarios with high emissions and limited or no adaptation, annual losses in some sectors are estimated to grow to hundreds of billions of dollars by the end of the century.

Annual Economic Damages in 2090		
Sector	Annual damages under RCP8.5	Damages avoided under RCP4.5
Labor	\$155B	48%
Extreme Temperature Mortality	\$141B	58%
Coastal Property◊	\$118B	22%
Air Quality	\$26B	31%
Roads◊	\$20B	59%
Electricity Supply and Demand	\$9B	63%
Inland Flooding	\$8B	47%
Urban Drainage	\$6B	26%
Rail◊	\$6B	36%
Water Quality	\$5B	35%
Coral Reefs	\$4B	12%
West Nile Virus	\$3B	47%
Freshwater Fish	\$3B	44%
Winter Recreation	\$2B	107%
Bridges	\$1B	48%
Munic. and Industrial Water Supply	\$316M	33%
Harmful Algal Blooms	\$199M	45%
Alaska Infrastructure◊	\$174M	53%
Shellfish*	\$23M	57%
Agriculture*	\$12M	11%
Aeroallergens*	\$1M	57%
Wildfire	-\$106M	-134%

Source: adapted from EPA 2017





http://nap.edu/25259

Coastal blue carbon

Reducing Risks for our future

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