

Climate Change and Wisconsin's Communities

Core Competency
for
Cooperative Extension Educators



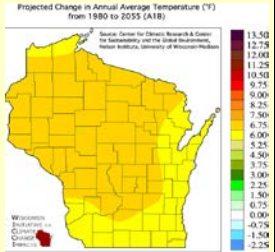
UW
Extension
Cooperative Extension



Overview

Part 1 – The role of Extension in climate education

- 2 - Challenges to building climate awareness
- 3 - Understanding Earth's climate
- 4 – Wisconsin's climate trends, projections and impacts
- 5 - Responses to climate change



Why a Core Competency in Climate Change?

***A richer understanding of climate issues will allow
UW-Extension county faculty and specialists to work
more confidently with clients.***

UW-Extension Climate Curriculum Team

Bill Bland, ANRE, Co-Chair
Jennifer Kushner, Program Support
Joe Lauer, ANRE
David Liebl, CNRED, Co-Chair
Carol McCartney, WGNHS
Jay Moynihan, Shawano
Pat Robinson, ERC
Becky Sapper, LSNEER
Cathy Techtman, CNRED

- Briefly discuss institutional perspective of climate as a central factor in Extension programming
- Acknowledge the curriculum design team

Core Competency Learning Objectives

- Demonstrate an understanding of climate science
- Appreciate the nature of the public discourse around climate change
- See the relevance of climate education, and its relation to other UWEx evidence-based programming
- Integrate climate change considerations into UWEx outreach programs

Part 1

Why UWEx has a role
in climate education

What about climate concerns UW-Extension

*...and weather can
take a human toll!*




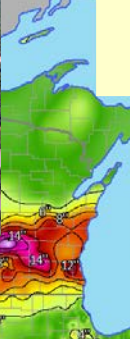
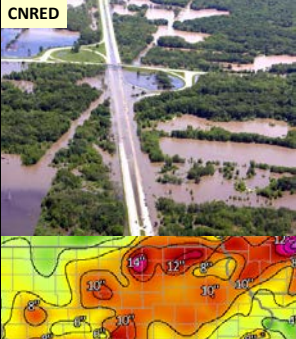
weather...



- Set the stage for the discussion of impacts (i.e. weather).
- Note the difference between weather and climate
- Climate change shifts the probability of extreme weather events

CNRED

High Water Storms of June 1-15, 2008



38 River gauges broke records
810 Square miles of land flooded
161 Communities overflowed 90 million gallons raw sewage
2,500 Drinking water wells tested - 28% contaminated

\$34M in damage claims paid

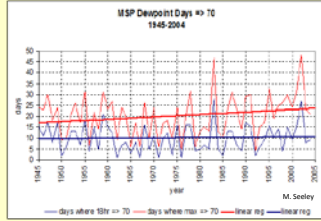
Source: FEMA, WEM

- 12" to 15" of rainfall over seven days
- I-39/I90-94 closed for three days due to flooding
- Reedsburg wastewater plant submerged, w/\$800k damage...FEMA reimbursed

Family Living

Heat

Trend in dew point of 70° F or higher in the Twin Cities



Heat Mortality

- Higher dew points = Heat related health care and mortality
 - = Increased demand for air conditioning and community heat shelters
- Source: Mark Seeley, University of Minnesota

ANRE

Drought



Impacts from Extreme Events

- Projected rainfall in winter and spring threatens soil resources
- Greatest vulnerability of steep slopes
- Wisconsin Buffer Initiative estimates of sediment delivered to watershed outlet (1 t/acre = 224 tonnes/sq km)

Source: Diebel, M.W., J.T. Maxted, D.M. Robertsons, S. Han, M.J. Vander Zanden. 2009, Landscape planning for agricultural nonpoint source pollution reduction III: Assessing phosphorus and sediment reduction potential, Environ. Management 43:69-83.

4-H

STEM Education



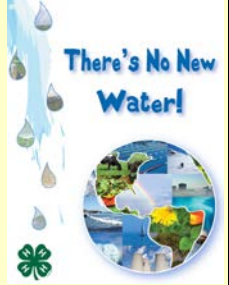
4-H₂O

- Calculate carbon footprint
- Study increased in atmospheric CO₂



Wired for Wind

- Build wind turbine
- Reduce their reliance on fossil fuels



There's No New Water

- The water cycle
- Change can lead to drought

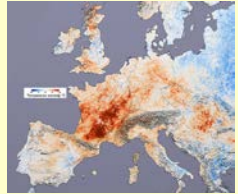
- 4-H₂O had youth calculate their carbon footprint and study the environmental effects of an increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide
- Wired for Wind teaches youth to build their own wind turbine, calculate energy production and reduce their reliance on fossil fuels
- In the curriculum "There's No New Water", youth learn about how human's affect the water cycle and how environmental changes can lead to drought conditions

Slide 11

One Example of Why Climate Change Is an Urgent Issue

2003: hottest summer in Europe in 500 years
70,000 deaths

Climate change = 2-fold increase in risk



2010: Western Russia - hottest since yr 1500
11,000 deaths, grain harvest reduced 30%

Climate change = 3-fold increase in risk



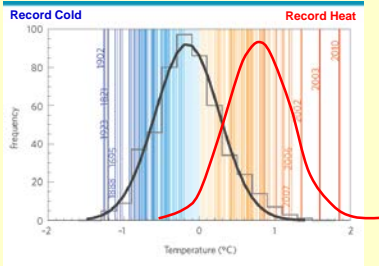
*Think in terms of likelihood of such events...
an example of climate knowledge*

- 2003 figure shows difference between 20 July – 20 August 2003, and same period 2001, 2002, 2004

Source:

- Robine, et al, Comptes Rendus Biologies, Volume 331, Issue 2, February 2008, Pages 171–178
- Stott, et al, Nature, 432, 610-614, 2004
- Otto, et al, Geophysical Research Letters, Vol. 39, L04702, 5 pp., 2012

Climate change and the probability of extreme events



Increased avg. temperature
shifts the probability of extreme heat

- Climate change shifts the probability of all weather events.
 - Figure shows European temperature records 1500 – 2010
 - Note that record cold becomes less frequent, while record heat becomes more frequent
 - Projections of Wisconsin climate trends indicate that extreme heat events will become more likely.
- Source: Rahmstorf and Coumou, PNAS November 1, 2011 vol. 108 no. 44 17905-17909

What do home runs and
weather extremes have in common

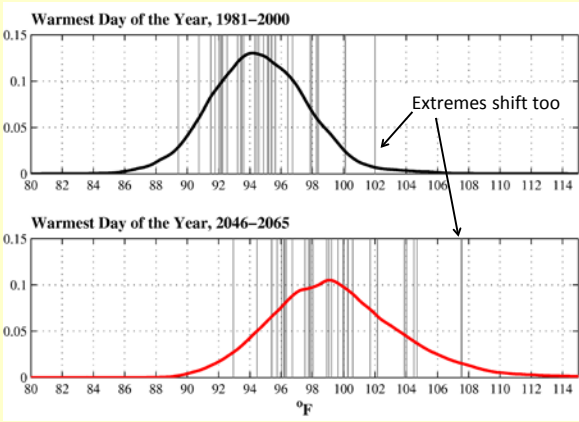


Play embedded video: Climate on Steroids

Source:

<http://www2.ucar.edu/atmosnews/attribution/steroids-baseball-climate-change>

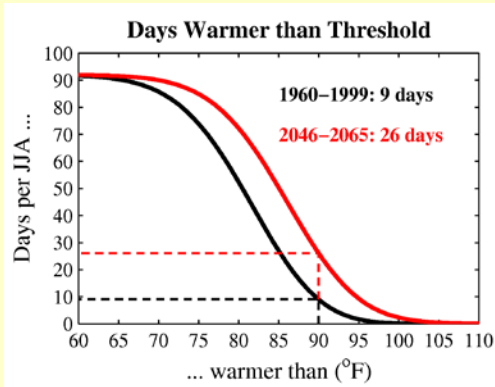
Likelihood of the warmest day of the year



- The probability distribution of the hottest day of the year.
- Also plotted are representative temperatures for a single city in the region as grey lines (the data is from 1960-1999 for Wausau, note that the 102 high is real - 1995).
- Grey lines in the bottom graph are re-scaled using the probability distributions (note that it's not shifted exactly).

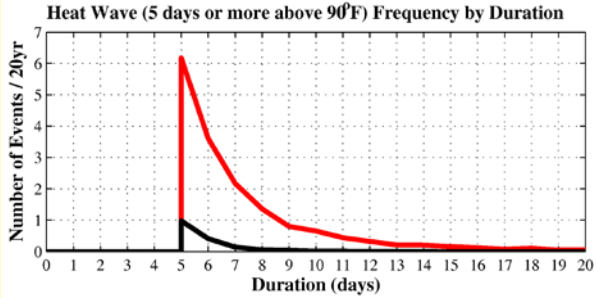
Source: Dan Vimont

Number of days in June - August
with the maximum T above a given temperature



- This plot shows the number of days in June - August where the max temperature is above a given temperature.
 - This is for Madison, but is representative.
- Source: Dan Vimont

Increase in heat waves
1981-2000 vs. 2046-2065



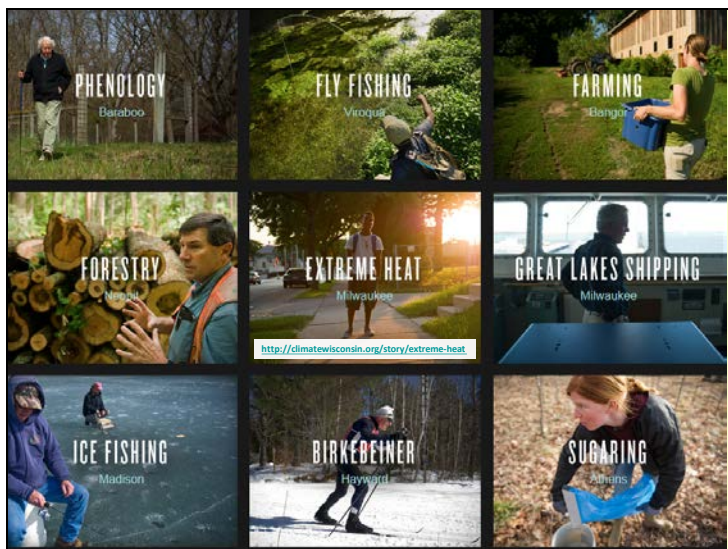
More frequent and longer



- This shows the frequency per twenty years of a heat wave (at least 5 continuous days above 90F), as a function of the duration of that heat wave

Source: Dan Vimont

Slide 17



Play *Extreme Heat* clip

Click url to connect to:

<http://climatewisconsin.org/story/extreme-heat>

Discussion:

What need do you see for Extension's engagement on climate change:

- Climate and weather are fundamental influences on prosperity
- Community attitudes about climate change affect decision making
- Extension's evidence-based educational model and reputation are a source of information in the community

Can you think of more?

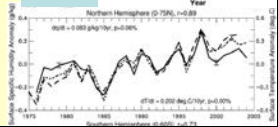
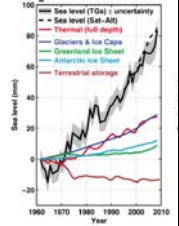
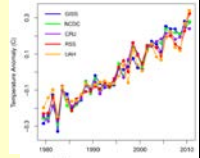
- Prompt for ideas before revealing

Part 2
Challenges to Building
Climate Awareness

Global Evidence of Warming

- Temperature records-land, ocean, atmosphere
- Melting mountain glaciers, ice caps
- Loss of sea ice area and thickness
- Sea level increase
- Increased water vapor in atmosphere

There is broad scientific consensus that earth's atmosphere is warming



Sources:

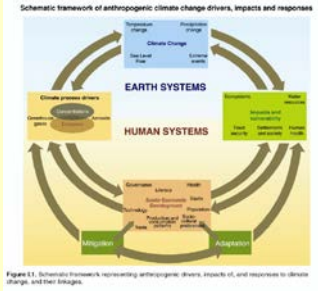
- Foster, G., & Rahmstorf, S. (2011). *Global temperature evolution 1979–2010*. Environmental Research Letters, 6(4), 044022
- Church, J. A., White, N. J., Konikow, L. F., Domingues, C. M., Cogley, J. G., Rignot, E., Gregory, J. M., et al. (2011). *Revisiting the Earth's sea-level and energy budgets from 1961 to 2008*. Geophysical Research Letters, 38(18)
- Dai, A. 2006 *Recent climatology, variability, and trends in global surface humidity*. J. Climate 19:3589-3606

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Convened 1988 - UN World Meteorological Organization;
UN Environment Program

Mission - *Assess the scientific, technical and socioeconomic information relevant for the understanding of the risk of human-induced climate change.*

Assessment Reports –
1990, 1995, 2001, 2007, 2014

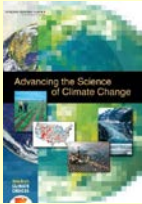


- IPCC convened to study impact of human activity on climate
- Global focus of world-wide science resources
- Explicit support of policymakers

Scientific Consensus on Climate Change

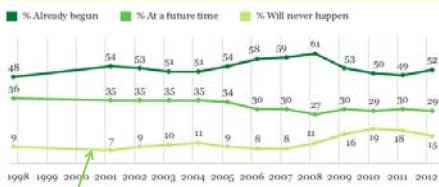
“There is a strong, credible body of evidence, based on multiple lines of research, documenting that climate is changing, and that these changes are in large part caused by human activities.”

— US National Research Council, 2010



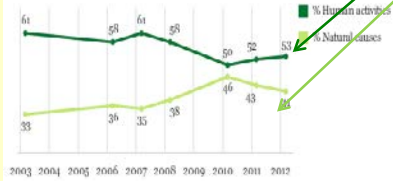
Source: National Research Council, *Advancing the Science of Climate Change*, Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2010

Public Opinion on Climate



UW-Extension's audience

**Why
The divide?**



- Extension's role is to support climate mitigation and adaptation.
- Opinion about the cause of climate change is not relevant to responding to climate impacts.

Source: Gallup Polls

The political divide over climate

- Majorities of Democrats (78%), Independents (71%) and Republicans (53%) believe that global warming is happening.
- Only 34 percent of Tea Party members believe global warming is happening, while 53 percent say it is not happening.
- While 62 percent of Democrats say that global warming is caused mostly by human activities, most Tea Party members say it is either naturally caused (50%) or isn't happening at all (21%).

- Source: Yale & George Mason University, 2011

- Even though most Americans believe that climate change is real, political opinion has aligned with the climate question

Caught in the climate debate?

Efforts to discredit climate science:

- Often obfuscate the scientific argument
- Can be complex to refute (though information is available)
- Need only sow doubt, not disprove any science

Why all the controversy?

- Climate scientists vs. Special interests and ideologies
- Concern for the future vs. Fear of life style change
- Forward thinking vs. Head-in-the-sand

Who do we listen to?

Why is responding to climate change so difficult?

- Global problem
- Political controversy
- Human psychology
 - Abstractness and cognitive complexity
 - Blamelessness of unintentional action
 - Guilty bias
 - Uncertainty breeds wishful thinking
 - Moral collectivism
 - Long time horizons and faraway places



***Science can tell us what is going on,
but not what we should do about it."***

- Garvey (2008) The Ethics of Climate Change

- In spite of the wealth of evidence that humans are causing rapid climate change that will burden all of humanity, but especially the poor and future generations, societies have done little in response.
- Psychologists and philosophers have been actively studying the problem, and propose that there are characteristics of the problem that make it particularly challenging for societies to address.
- A short list: That it will require a global response, and countries are so diverse that it is difficult to envision how that will occur;
That there is some uncertainty about how costly it to be, to which people and when;
There is political resistance policy to some responses that involve policy actions e.g., C tax or limits on emissions;
The complicated and technical nature of the issue make it difficult for many to grasp and engage.

Discussion:

What have you observed about the climate controversy in your community?

Part 3

Understanding Earth's Climate

Atmosphere Regulates Temperature



Venus

Mass 80% earth
92 earth atmospheres

96.5% Carbon Dioxide;
3.5% Nitrogen

867°F

Earth

78.08% Nitrogen
20.95% Oxygen

60°F

Without an
atmosphere
0° F

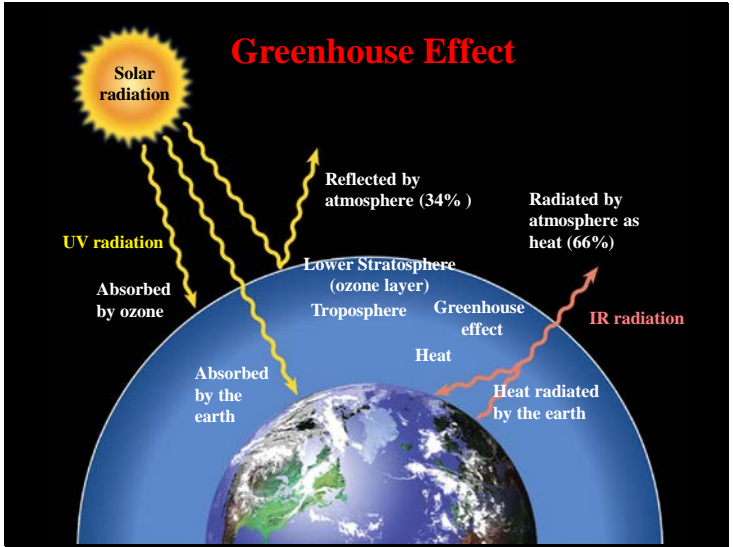
Mars

Mass 10% earth
0.006 earth atmospheres

95.32% Carbon Dioxide
2.7% Nitrogen
1.6% Argon

-81°F

- Venus: Deep CO₂ atmosphere created by chemical processes traps more heat
- Mars: Low gravity lets gases escape = little atmosphere
- Earth: Life forms sequester CO₂, allowing heat to escape (note: without an atmosphere, the surface of earth would be about 0°F)



Brief discussion of heat transfer and absorption in the atmosphere

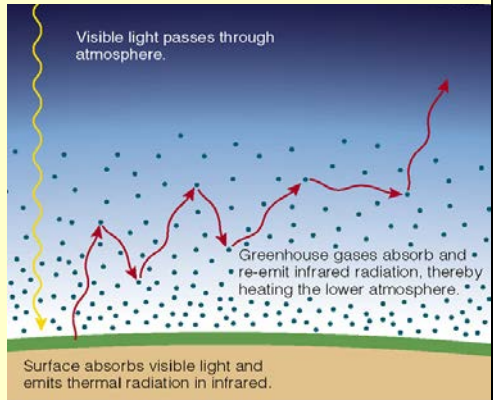
Anthropogenic Greenhouse Gases

%
Water vapor (H₂O)

ppm
Carbon dioxide (CO₂)

ppb
Methane (CH₄)
Nitrous oxide (N₂O)
Tropospheric ozone (O₃)

ppt
Fluorocarbons (CFCs, HCFCs)
Carbon tetrachloride
Methyl chloroform
Sulfur hexafluoride

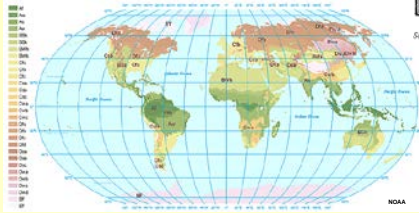


- Note that some greenhouse gases are more potent than CO₂ (e.g. nitrous oxide ~x300, methane ~x20)
- Water vapor is also a greenhouse gas, but the impact is complicated due to effects of clouds, rain, etc.
- Main point is that atmospheric CO₂, etc. are increasing

The climate idea

“Climate is properly the long average of weather in a single place”

– *The Cornhill Magazine*, 1860



Köppen climate subdivisions -1884
(30 year averages)



Source: William Cuninghame, *The Cosmographical Glasse* (London, 1599), p. 64.



- Emphasize on how long the concept of climate has been accepted - Note dates (1599, 1860)
- World map shows 30 year averages
- US Map shows coarse spatial resolution of climate zones.

The Climate System

Sun radiates heat



Earth's rotation and orbit around sun intercepts heat



Atmosphere absorbs and traps heat



Oceans store and transport heat



Ice and snow reflect heat and "store" cold

Weather = Atmospheric phenomena that arise from systematic interactions in the climate system

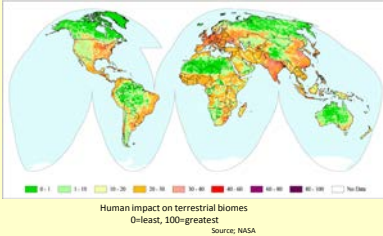
(Size of continents, and place, affect climate and weather)

Ways to think about climate:

- Average weather over a period of time for a specific location (place or region)
- The full range of weather experienced at a specific location
- The "base state" of weather, as driven by climate system

Human Influence on Climate

- Increasing concentrations of atmospheric greenhouse gases: (carbon dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons, methane, nitrous oxide)
- Increasing concentrations of airborne particles (aerosols)



- Land Use

Humans have altered ~40% of earth's habitable surface through deforestation, agriculture, and urbanization.

- IPCC Findings: Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2007 (AR4)

- Human land use continues to alter regional climate

Source:

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/footprint/>

Scientific understanding of human impact upon climate



John Tyndall

Tyndall (1859) demonstrates that CO₂ and water vapor can trap heat in the atmosphere

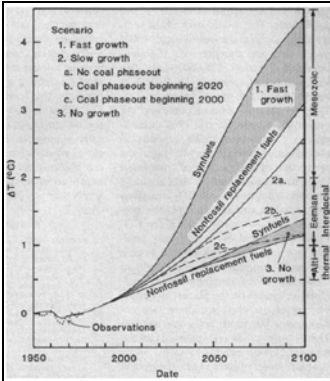
“...the slight percentage of carbonic acid in the atmosphere may, by the advances of industry, be changed to a noticeable degree in the course of a few centuries.”

Arrhenius (1896) proposes that increased carbon dioxide emissions could raise atmospheric temperature



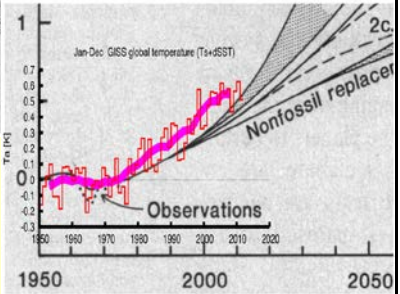
Svante Arrhenius

- Greenhouse effect theory over 100 years old
- Tyndall provides the physical chemistry
- Arrhenius draws the connection to atmospheric warming



Hansen, et al, 1981
Climate impact of increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide, Science, 213, 957-966

Predicted
Drought in North America
Rising sea levels
Opening of the Northwest Passage



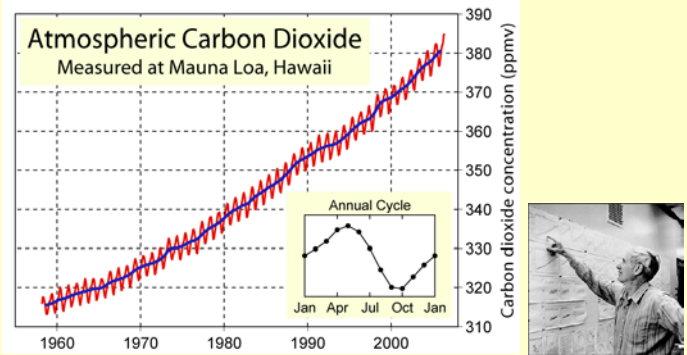
30+ years later: warming is greater than predicted

- The beginning of the modern enquiry into climate change
- Projections of warming based on different CO2 emission scenarios have been made for over thirty years

Source:

<http://www.realclimate.org/index.php/archives/2012/04/evaluating-a-1981-temperature-projection>

The CO₂ Trajectory



Charles Keeling

- This is the “Keeling Curve”. Charles Keeling (Scripps Institute for Oceanography) started taken measurements at Mauna Loa in the late 50’s.
- This curve has become the single most important time series in the global climate change debate.
- We see that we’re near 390ppm of CO₂, from ~280 from pre-industrial.
- Annual variation is northern hemisphere sequestration by plants

“CO2 Was Way Higher In The Past” (?)



Play embedded video (on click)

Source: <http://earththeoperatorsmanual.com/main-video/how-to-talk-to-an-ostrich>

Discussion:

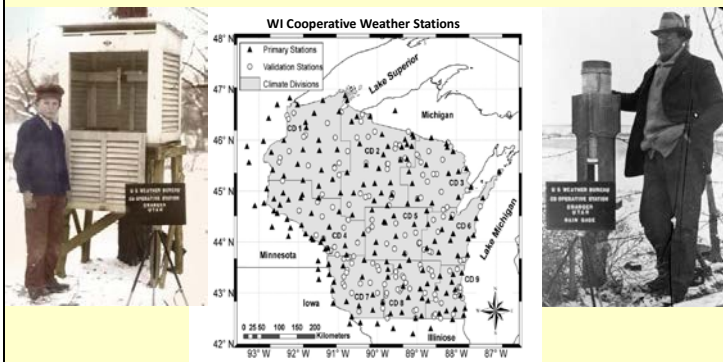
Questions?

Clarification of climate science concepts

Part 4

Wisconsin's climate trends

Looking back to look forward: Understanding historic climate



We've been measuring temperature and rainfall since the 1800's

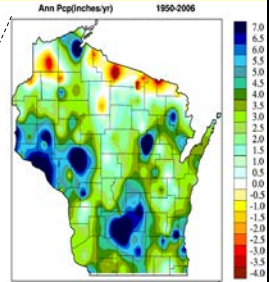
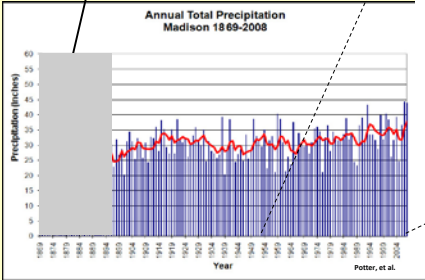
- The recent historic record is used to show that Wisconsin's climate has changed
- 176 NWS Co-Op weather stations provide data
- 1950 is when consistently good data became available for all stations

Source: Kucharik, C.J., et al, *Patterns Of Climate Change Across Wisconsin From 1950 To 2006*, Physical Geography, 2010, 31, 1, pp. 1–28.

Annual Average Precipitation Change

Wisconsin rainfall has changed
by $\uparrow 7''$ to $\downarrow 4''$ since 1950

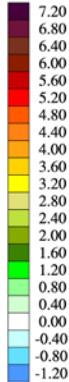
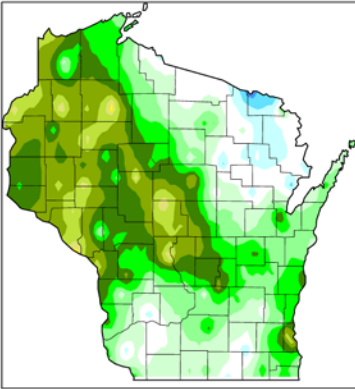
Older records show
Wetter periods



- Rainfall has been more variable by location (note drought in north central)
- However, rainfall is well below historic highs (late 1800's)

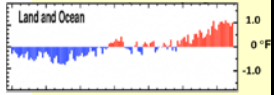
Historic Temperature Change

Change in Annual Average Temperature (°F) from 1950 to 2006



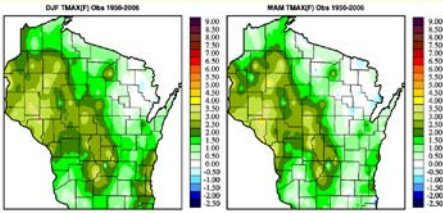
**Wisconsin has warmed
by 1°-1.5°F
since 1950**

Jan-Dec Global Surface Mean Temp Anomalies
NCCDC/NESDIS/NOAA (Smith et al. (2008))



- This figure averages diurnal and seasonal temperature
- Note the spatial variability
- Compare to global temperature anomaly

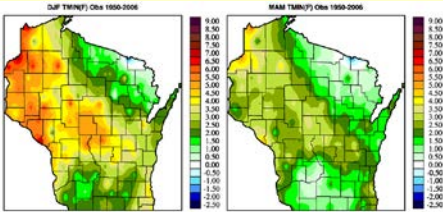
Daytime High Temperature Change



Winter

Spring

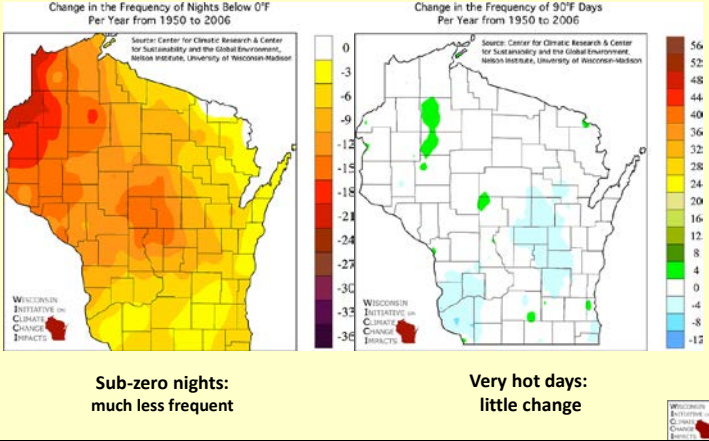
Nighttime Low Temperature Change



[Exercise (two by two)– what can you deduce from these slides?]

- Temperature increases are seasonal
- Warmer winter nights are responsible for overall average increase
- Summer and autumn show little change

Temperature Extremes

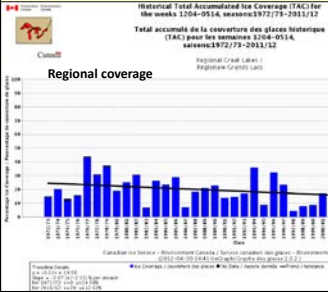
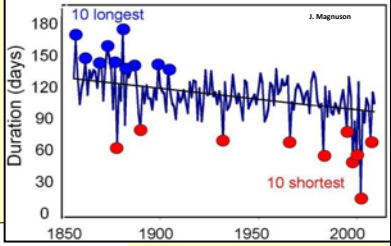


- Extreme temperature trends are consistent with the previous slide

Physical Indicators
of a changing
climate

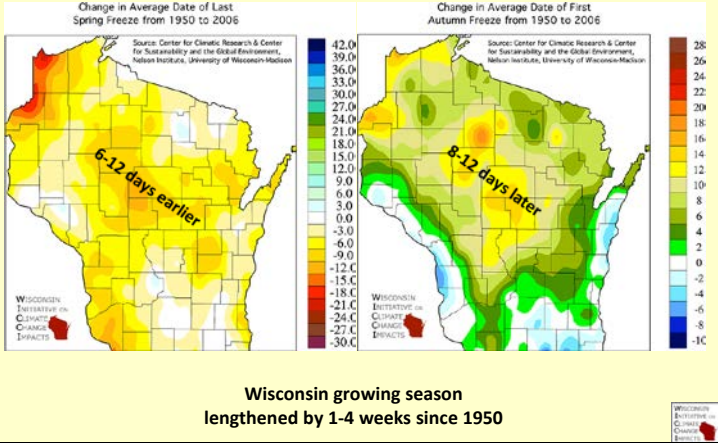
Fewer days
of lake ice

Lake Mendota Ice Duration 1855-6 to 2008-9



- Lake ice cover duration is an indicator of annual temperature trend, both regional and local
- Note grouping of record years....relate to probability of extreme events

Dates of spring and fall freeze



- Warmer winter means longer a growing season for most of state

Of 55 ecological indicators of spring,
37 advanced between 1935-47 and 1976-98



Pasque flower bloom
9 days earlier,
on average



American Robin arrival
1935-1947 March 19
1976-1998 March 5



Bloodroot bloom
14 days earlier,
on average

Source: Stan Temple, UW-Madison

- Plants and animals also respond to temperature
- Regional ecological impacts are consistent with a warming climate

Climate Impact:

Wildlife

Winners:

- Short generation times
- Wide distributions
- Move easily across landscape
- General habitat requirements
- Not sensitive to human activity

Losers:

- Long generation times
- Narrow distributions
- Poor dispersal ability
- Special habitat requirements
- Sensitive to human activity



American Marten



Prairie Chicken



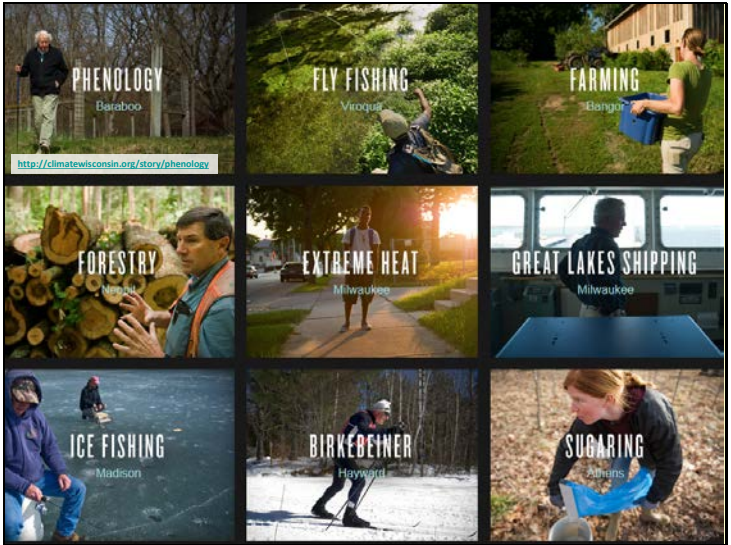
Eastern Red-backed Salamander



Karner Blue Butterfly

- Most species thought of as generalists or invasive will adapt and prosper
- Species that depend on specific habitat conditions will suffer

Slide 50



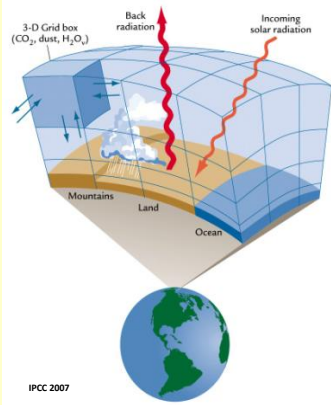
Play *Phenology* (click on url)

Source: <http://climatewisconsin.org/story/phenology>

Part 5

Climate projections and impacts

Using climate models to understand how the future might unfold



General Circulation Models (GCMs) simulate the effects of incoming and outgoing thermal radiation on global climate, and include:

- Atmosphere
- Clouds
- Oceans
- Topography
- Rainfall
- Radiant heat

- Earth's climate system is complex, and all interrelated elements of it cannot be resolved to provide exact predictions
- Mathematical modeling provides approximations of physical process, and insight into future conditions

A few thoughts on climate projections

- Climate modeling seeks to understand climate processes, how human activities are altering the climate system, and to project future conditions
- No single GCM is “right” - the differences between models reflect the complexity of the climate system
- All model projections become more uncertain further into the future

What humans adapt to is the variability of weather

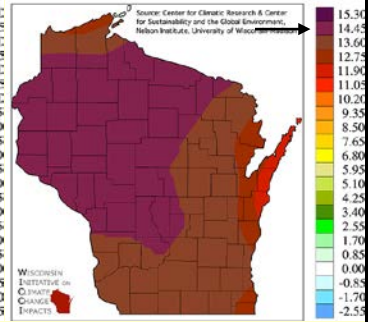
Projections are less certain further into the future

2090 annual mean = +10°F ± 4°F

10th Percentile Among Models' Projected Change in Annual Average Temperature (°F) from 1980 to 2090 (A1B Scenario)



90th Percentile Among Models' Projected Change in Annual Average Temperature (°F) from 1980 to 2090 (A1B Scenario)



>10th probability

← mean →

<90th probability

- Relate to previous slide

- A1B CO2 emission scenario:

Rapid economic growth

A global population that reaches 9 billion in 2050 and then gradually declines

The quick spread of new and efficient technology

A convergent world - income and way of life converge between regions

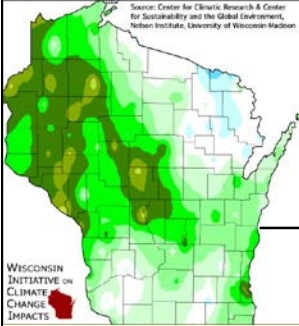
Extensive social and cultural interactions worldwide.

A balanced emphasis on all energy sources

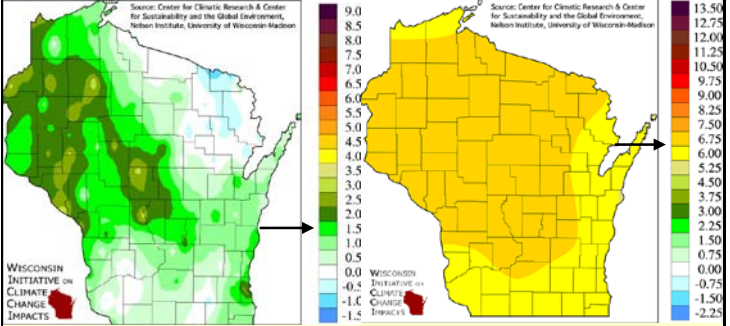
- Note that nobody is planning for 2090

Projected Temperature (°F)

Historic change in average annual temp 1950 to 2006



Projected change in average annual temp 1980 to 2055



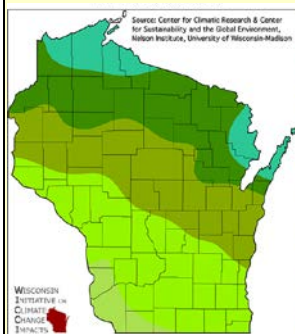
Significant warming is projected

- Explain why 1950 was used as historic baseline: Beginning of reliable and extensive weather records for WI
- Explain debiasing (1980 -2008) for projections: Climate models begin with twenty years of historic data

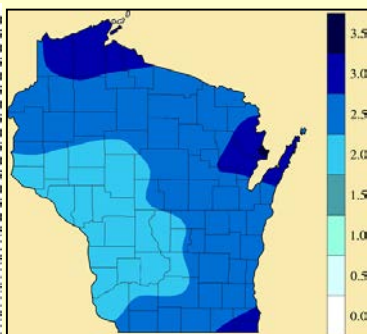


Projected Precipitation

Projected change in annual average
1980 to 2055 (inches)



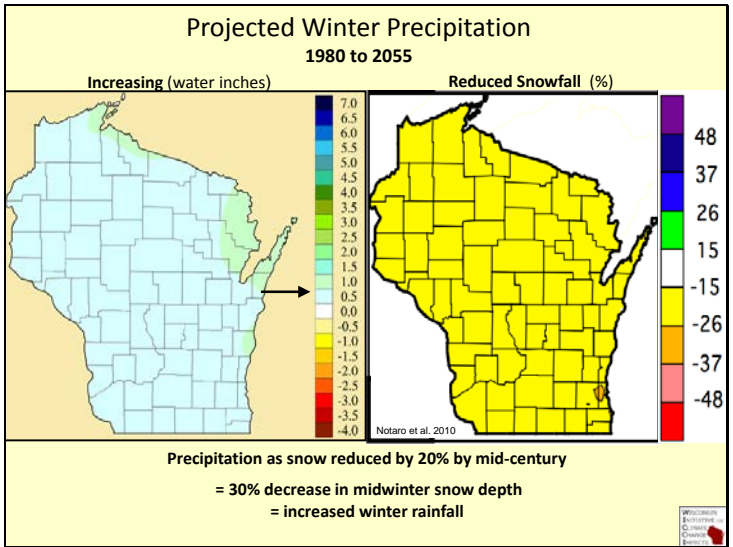
Projected increase in 2" rainfalls
1980 to 2055 (days/decade)



1.25" to 2.25" annual increase over ~30"
2-3 days of 2" rain per decade over ~13/decade
= modest future increase

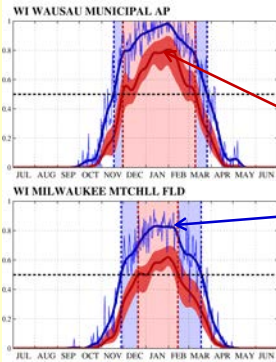


- Note broad spatial resolution compared to historical
- Projections for precip necessarily more uncertain than for temp
- Historic annual precip ~30" (1895-2007, WI State Climatologist)
- 2"-24hr rainfall frequency ~13/decade (Midwest Climate Center - Bulletin 71)



- Change in seasonality of rainfall more certain than change in the amount of precipitation.

Winter Snow vs. Winter Rain 1961-2000 vs. 2046-2065



Future Wausau winters
more like Milwaukee's today

- Snow vs. rain plot for Wausau and for Milwaukee.
- The thick blue curve indicates the probability that precipitation will be in the form of snow instead of rain (11 day running mean applied to make it smoother).
- The thick red line is the probability under 2046-2065 conditions. The broad range of red indicates the 10th and 90th percentiles.
- By 2046-2065 climate, Wausau looks like Milwaukee for 1961-2000.

Source: Dan Vimont

Climate Impact:

Groundwater flooding from increased recharge



This Spring Green subdivision has been razed, with FEMA reimbursement.

The community has built a diversion channel to carry water from future flooding.

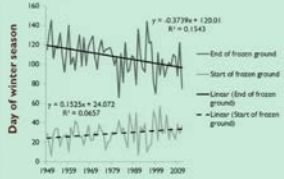
- Groundwater flooding occurs when recharge exceeds drainage and the water table rises above the surface.
- Impacts primarily upon rural development and agriculture.
- Photos from Spring Green, where FEMA paid out for groundwater flood damage for the first time
- Diversion channel runs north to south, crossing US Hwy 14

Climate Impact:
Less Frost

Forestry



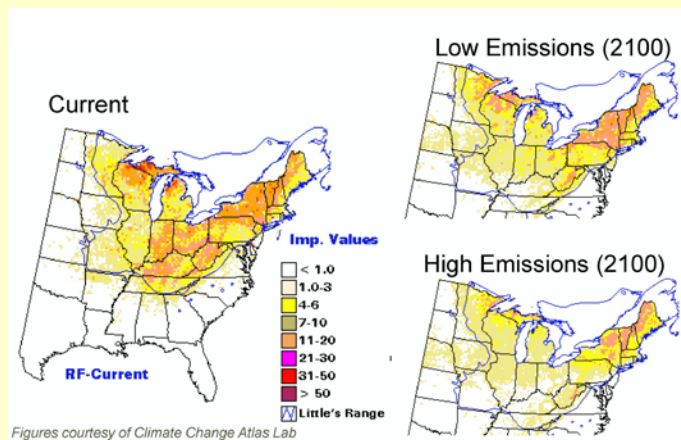
Start and End of Frozen Ground:
Eau Claire County, 1949 to 2011



**Shorter periods of frozen ground
= limits to the logging season**

- Relate Eau Claire County figure to previous ice-off slide
- Winter road hauling may be affected
- Increasing forest disturbance from summer harvesting?

Loss of Sugar Maple



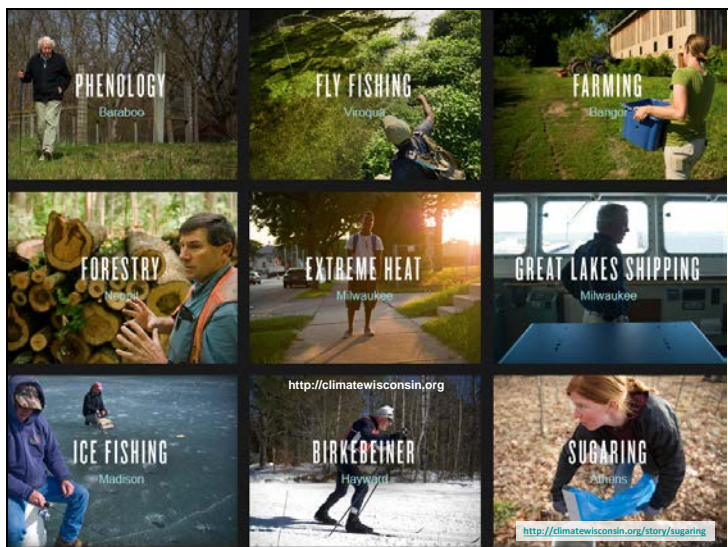
While sugar maple will still exist over a wide range, it will become uncommon. (Imp. Values = Importance Value)

- Maple syrup industry will suffer.

Note: Importance values rank species within a site based upon three criteria:

- 1) how commonly a species occurs across the entire forest;
- 2) the total number of individuals of the species;
- 3) the total amount of forest area occupied by the species.

Slide 62



Play *Sugaring* (click on url)

Source: <http://climatewisconsin.org/story/sugaring>

Summary of Wisconsin's projected climate

- More frequent hot days
- Significant increase in heat waves
- Warmer nighttime and winter temperatures
- Moderate increase in frequency and intensity of precipitation
- Significant increase in rain during winter
- Impact on short term variability (weather) not understood



Discussion:

Have you personally observed climate change?

What are the implications for communities?

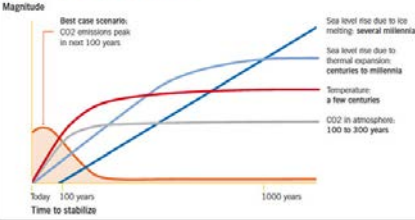
Part 6

Responses to climate change

Responding to climate change: a combined approach is needed

Figure 1: How long will it take our climate to stabilize?

Even if we succeed at reducing our emissions, it will take centuries for the climate—and the effects of global warming and sea level rise—to stabilize.



American Planning Association

Mitigation:

Necessary to avoid *dangerous* climate change

Adaptation:

Climate change is occurring;
Adaptation needed to minimize impacts

- Atmospheric CO2 and resulting warming trend will continue into future.
- In response need to work on both mitigation and adaptation.
- Mitigation to flatten the trajectory line to at least horizontal, maybe even downward, to prevent catastrophic warming.
- Adaptation is essential because we need to learn to live with the impacts.

Source:

<http://www.planning.org/planning/2012/jan/waterwarriorsside2.htm>

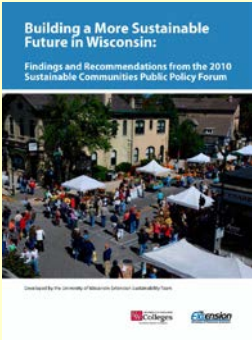
Mitigation: Reducing CO2

- Energy Efficiency & Conservation
- Renewables: Solar, Hydro, Wind, Tides
- Carbon sequestration
- Nuclear Power
- Geo-Engineering



- There are a wide variety of mitigation strategies
- Many will require national consensus to move forward

Examples: UWEx role in mitigation (sustainability)



http://www3.uwsuper.edu/sustainability/Energy_Climate_Change.htm

Increase the amount of renewable energy generated in the state.

Develop local renewable energy and energy efficiency programs.

Update local ordinances to encourage energy conservation.

- Local programs can assist motivated individuals and businesses
- Sustainability is a useful concept for encouraging mitigation

Developing Climate Ready Communities

Climate Awareness

Vulnerability Assessment :

Extreme heat

Drought

Heavy rainfall

Warm winters

Windstorms

Adaptation Capacity:

Planning

Resiliency



Communities should be prepared for today's rare weather extremes, they will become more common.

- Community development and planning should acknowledge climate change

Case Study: Shawano County



Jay Moynihan



Understanding the potential areas of risk and opportunity posed by climate change

Understanding what climate change strategy is in the business context

Creating a *Rapid Climate Change Strategy* for business

- Businesses can be both economically and physically vulnerable to climate impacts

Source:

Jay Moynihan

Shawano County UW-Extension

(715) 526-6136

<jay.moynihan@ces.uwex.edu>

<http://shawano.uwex.edu/community-development/>

Blog: <http://adaptationfactory.blogspot.com/>

Challenges of Climate Adaptation

Long planning horizon - Climate change occurs over decades, are community planning and management strategies are on the same time scale?

e.g. civil infrastructure, natural resource management, hydropower

Predictive uncertainty - Are management strategies flexible enough to respond to the range of climate impacts and uncertainty ?

What margin of safety is affordable?

Place-based activities – Can natural resource based economies and culture be relocated?

We can't move the corn belt onto the Canadian shield

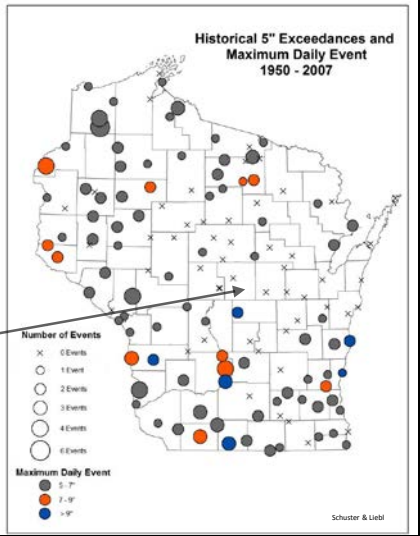
Win-Win strategies can hinge on climate change acceptance

Adaptation Strategies:
Extreme Rainfall

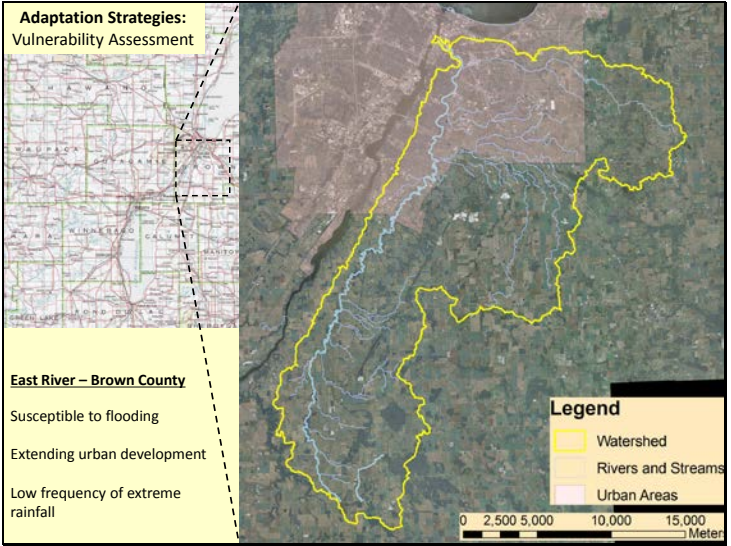
Most communities design and manage their systems based on experience (i.e. historical thinking)

Low frequency of extreme rainfall in east-central

State record is 11.75"

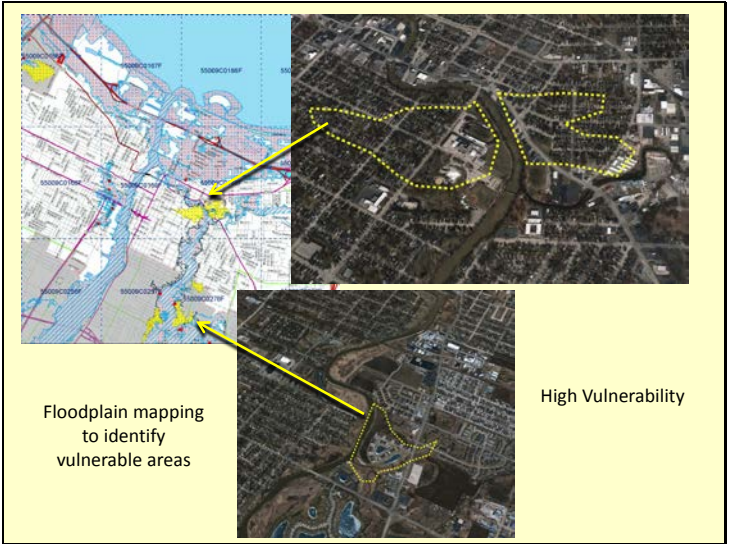


- Many Wisconsin communities have never experienced extreme rainfall.
- Communities in northeast WI are concerned about experiencing a 4" rainfall.
- Is it a statistical artifact or climate related? (unknown)



- Note steep slopes and “ladder” shape of watershed = high vulnerability to intense rainfall moving south to north
- Drainage in City of GB impeded by high Fox R and/or Green Bay elevations

Slide 74



- 500-year flood elevations shown
- 2011 Resources for the Future study identified flood vulnerable areas
- High density residential downtown, low density multi-family upstream

East River - Costs of flood vulnerability

	<i>10-year flood</i>	<i>50-year flood</i>	<i>100-year flood</i>	<i>500-year flood</i>
Total building, content, and inventory loss (million 2010 \$)	55.88	80.11	95.62	123.78
Business interruption loss ¹ (million 2010 \$)	1.05	1.19	1.31	1.50
Moderately damaged ² buildings	122	261	317	434
Truckloads of debris generated (25 tons/truck)	74	110	129	172

Source: RFF 2011

Adaptation recommendations

- Limit development to low-hazard structures
- Assess emergency warning and response capacity
- Anticipate removal of flood damaged structures
- Evaluate up-gradient flow control opportunities

- All require extensive community planning

Source: Kousky, C., S. Olmstead, M. Walls, A. Stern, M. Macauley, *The Role of Land Use in Adaptation to Increased Precipitation and Flooding: A Case Study in Wisconsin's Lower Fox River Basin*, November 2011, Resources for the Future

Relevance of Climate Change to UW-Extension Programming

- Current weather extremes are consistent with the risk posed by climate projections.
- Communities that are prepared for today's weather extremes will be better adapted to future conditions.
- Extension's audiences are community members who are receptive to this point of view.

WICCI Adaptive Assessment Report

Changes:

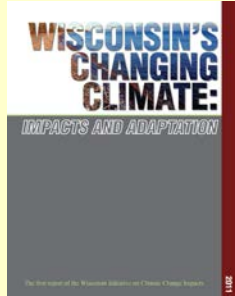
- Climate Trends in Wisconsin
- Understanding Adaptation

Impacts:

- Water Resources
- Natural Habitat and Biodiversity
- Agriculture and the Soil Resource
- Coastal Resources
- People and their Environment

Actions:

- Implementing Adaptation
- Moving Forward

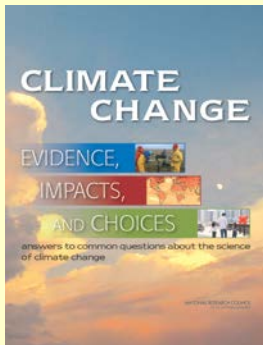
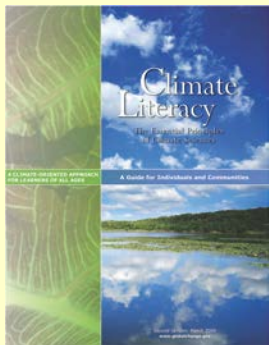


www.wicci.wisc.edu



- Working group reports provide specific impacts and adaptation strategies

Other resources:



<https://fyi.uwex.edu/climate/>

Sources:

- http://www.cpo.noaa.gov/education/pdfs/ClimateLiteracyPoster-8_5x11_Final4-11.pdf

- http://nas-sites.org/americasclimatechoices/files/2012/06/19014_cvtx_R1.pdf

Discussion:

Integrating climate into UW-extension programs

***What is the most important “take-home”
message for your office?***