

CLIMATE CHANGE Need to Know

Sea Level Rise



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Big Storms

Imagine a flood in your neighborhood. Water covers the ground. People have trouble driving through the streets. Water flows into homes.

For many, flooding is a real risk. Earth is seeing more floods than it used to. One reason is because **sea levels** are rising.

Sea level marks the height of the surface of ocean waters. Scientists use it to compare the height of other things. Mountains are measured as a distance above sea level. Valleys can dip lower than this waterline.





Caused by Climate

Sea levels are rising because Earth's **climate** is changing. The patterns of usual weather in places are different than they used to be. Some cities are getting more rain than ever before. Storms are becoming stronger. Many places are heating up.

Weather is what's happening at a certain time. It can be cold or rainy. Climate is the typical weather over years. A place that usually has cool, rainy weather has a cool, rainy climate.





Greenhouse Gases

Why is our climate changing? Human activity is a big reason. People burn **fossil fuels** to make energy. We use them to power our homes and factories. They make most cars and trucks go. But burning fossil fuels lets off **greenhouse gases**.

Carbon dioxide is one greenhouse gas. It comes from burning fossil fuels. **Methane** is another. It is made when waste breaks down. Big farms often let out a lot of methane.

Many factories let out a lot of carbon dioxide.

