



Climate Change and Extreme Weather

Weather and climate are not the same - but they are related. Weather is the day-to-day changes of the atmosphere around us, from sunny to stormy, hot to cold. Climate is the average conditions of the weather over months, years or decades. For example, the climate for Spokane during August is typically hot, dry and sunny. But sometimes, a change in the weather pattern may bring a day of stormy and cooler weather during the heat of summer.

Scientists continue to observe changes in our climate. They have seen warmer average temperatures during the last several decades. In fact, the global average temperature has increased by almost 1.4° F this century, and most of that has occurred in the last 30 years. One theory for the warming is that humans emit too many green house gases from daily activities, like driving cars and industry.

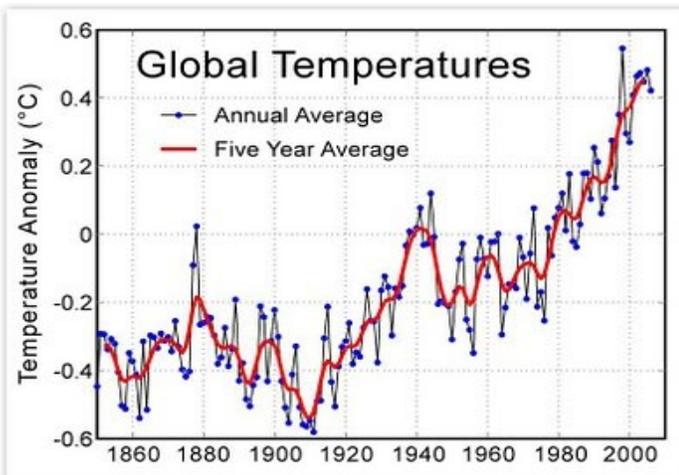
A link has been discovered between climate change and our weather, with more extreme weather events occurring in our country. Extreme weather events have been in the news recently - more tornado outbreaks, hurricanes

or super storms, droughts, flash flooding and forest fires. This trend is expected to continue.

For Spokane and the Inland Northwest, a shift in climate will most likely lead to hotter and drier summers, less mountain snow, and possibly more extreme storms like thunderstorms and dust storms. Here are some examples:

- After a long stretch of dry weather, the arrival of an intense thunderstorm may drop heavy rain. The rain falls so fast, that it can't soak into the ground. The water floods the streets and spills in the storm drains.
- Drier and hotter summer weather would cause our forests to dry out faster and lead to prolonged high fire danger. This raises the risk of wild fires with any lightning storm.
- A warmer climate would cause mountain snow to melt faster and lead to an earlier or quicker spring runoff into our rivers. This may alter or lower water flows in our rivers later in the year.

As you can see, climate change and extreme weather can impact our environment, our water, our air and our lives in many different ways.



For more climate change information and tips, please visit this great web site: <http://www.epa.gov/climatestudents/>

Slowdown Climate Change What you and your family can do:

- ⇒ **Reduce, reuse and recycle**
- ⇒ **Conserve energy**
Turn lights off when not in the room
- ⇒ **Reduce motor vehicle use**
Bike, walk, bus, or carpool
Combine errands into more efficient trips
Don't let your vehicle idle

Want to go on a Treasure Hunt?

Are you ready to go on a treasure hunt adventure? Try geo-caching! Summer is a perfect time to explore the outdoors, hunt for hidden treasures, and act like a real pirate.

Geocaching is a modern day treasure hunt using handheld GPS units (or even a smart phone.) The treasures or “caches” are containers of all sizes that may be colored or camouflaged to blend into their surroundings. Some are in locations that you pass every day—like in a park or on a bridge. Others take you off the beaten path into a whole new world. Inside the cache, there will be a log book to sign. Larger caches may be filled with small toys or trinkets to trade—like bouncy balls, key chains or stickers.

It’s amazing how many caches are hidden around the world—well over 1 million!

What do I need to start Geocaching?

1. Handheld GPS or smartphone.
2. Go to www.geocaching.com and create an account. There is a free limited account or a premium membership. If you use a smartphone, there is a Geocaching app to download and use.
3. A backpack or box to store your supplies, including a small pencil and trinkets to trade.
4. The rule of geocaching is that if you take something from the cache, you must replace it with something of equal or greater value. **HAVE FUN!!!**



Go geocaching or make a summer treat!. Email us a picture! You can earn 5 points!

Summer Fun Safety

- *Hydrate. Drink plenty of water or a sport's drink when out in the summer heat.*
- *Protect. Wear your sunscreen if out in the sun for long periods of time.*

Frozen Fruit Skewers

- 6 bamboo skewers
- 1 cup fresh fruit (berries, grapes, etc.)

Dipping Sauce

- 1/4 cup plain yogurt
 - 2 tsp honey
1. Put fruit on skewers.
 2. Freeze skewers in a zip-top bag for several hours
 3. Just before serving, mix yogurt & honey. Serve with frozen skewers.



Community Calendar

8/10– **Kids Days**—Riverfront Park
11am-5pm **FREE**

8/17– **Unity in the Community**—Riverfront Park
10am-4pm **FREE**

9/6-15—**Spokane County Interstate Fair**
Spokane Fair and Expo Center—10am-10pm
***fee charged**



EnviroKids' Club

EnviroKids' Club
c/o Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency
3104 E. Augusta Ave.
Spokane, WA 99207

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Spokane, WA
Permit No. 722

**See inside for
Activity Details!**

Members can earn 5 points
by completing each special
EnviroKids' activity that is
marked with a gold star!

EnviroKids'... caring for the Earth

EnviroKids' Club provides its 200+ members with information and activities to explore aspects of the environment: air, water, weather, garbage and recycling, plants and animals. The Club is open to all Spokane County residents who are in grades K-6.

Club members receive a newsletter in the mail four times a year. The newsletter contains activities to complete and ideas for activities at home or in the community. Members who are interested can complete activities and/or participate in some of the events to earn points. Earned points can then be used to trade-in for prizes. **Members need to participate in at least one activity per year to receive newsletters.** For more information, visit www.spokaneenvirokids.org.

To earn points, mail the completed activities page and this page by September 30, 2013 to:

**EnviroKids' Club c/o National Weather Service
2601 N. Rambo Rd. Spokane, WA 99224**

Complete the activities in the newsletter, fill in this form and send it back to us to earn your points! Do you have a friend or sibling who would like to join Envirokids' Club? Copy this page for them to send in and be added to our mailing list.

Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

My child has permission to participate in EnviroKids' Club activities that I accompany him/her to and permission is granted to use his/her photo that may be taken at such event, for promoting the Club (newsletter, flyers, ads, website, etc.)

Parent Signature. Please print name, then sign and date

EnviroKids' Club Partners: National Weather Service, Spokane County Water Resources, Spokane Conservation District, Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency, Spokane Regional Solid Waste System, and WA State Department of Ecology.

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