

BC Rainforest

Earth keeps breaking its own temperature record

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For the contiguous United States, 2016 actually was the second warmest year on record. January through August were each the warmest month on record, according to NOAA.

Unusually hot years wreak havoc on the planet by increasing heavy rainfall in some parts of the world while leading to drought in others, damaging crops. Last year's record status was confirmed in three separate analyses by scientists at NOAA, NASA, and the U.K. Met Office.

Last May, when early temperature data suggested that 2016 was on track to break another round of global temperatures, the Monitor reported that current warming trends could make it hard to avoid hitting that 1.5-degree mark.

Climate change continues to advance, with new data from two USA government research bodies declaring 2016 to have been the hottest year on record.

The 2016 average global temperature was 58.69 degrees-0.07 degrees above the 2015 global average.

Scientists at NOAA and Princeton University found that days with temperatures between 64 and 86 degrees and low humidity will decrease by 10 to 13 percent globally by the end of the century because of climate change. The World Meteorological Organization and other monitoring groups agreed that 2016 was a record, with the worldwide weather agency chief Petteri Taalas saying "temperatures only tell part of the story" of extreme warming.

"Bottom line (which remains unchanged by the 2016 global temperatures) ... climate models continue to look like they produce too much warming", Chip Knappenberger, a climate scientist with the libertarian Cato Institute, wrote in an email to The Daily Caller News Foundation.

The results are in: 2016 was the hottest year on record, marking the third year in a row that climate records have been broken. In part due to El Niño, the new global heat record is because the oceans were so warm in 2016.

A NASA map shows the pattern of global warming in 2016. The global warming "pause", which Berkeley Earth had always stressed was not statistically significant, now appears clearly to have been a temporary fluctuation.

The extreme spike in temperatures for 2015-2016, however, means that we've likely jumped from one warm plateau to another, even warmer one.

And what - or who - is the cause of more greenhouse gases?

"Long-term indicators of human-caused climate change reached new heights in 2016", WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said. It is also the single most important greenhouse gas emitted by human activities.