

Global IPPC Report warns of 1.5C warming sooner than thought

Ahead of COP26 in November, the IPCC has released their most comprehensive [climate report](#) to date, confirming beyond any reasonable doubt that climate change from human activity is a fact.

The IPCC's climate report gives a stark warning that a global temperature increase of at least 1.5C by 2040 is now largely inevitable, with consequent increases in extreme heat, flooding, sea level rise, drought and wildfire. However, the report also says that global emissions reductions to Net Zero by 2050 is extremely likely to keep global temperature rise below 2°C. Climate change is already affecting people, places and nature in every region of the world, and is having profound effects on wildlife in the UK – yet nature, when it's restored, will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving resilience to inevitable change.

The top headlines are:

- It is **indisputable that human activity is causing climate change**, with profound effects for the biosphere. However, impacts have grown more quickly than predicted
- The planet is warming quickly, with **consequences everywhere**; increased extreme heat, heavy rainfall, drought, and conditions conducive to wildfire
- **1.5C is largely inevitable by 2040 or sooner**
- But, **if the world manages to achieve global net zero by 2050, it is 'extremely likely' that global temperature increase can be limited to below 2C**, with a temporary overshoot of no more than 0.1C
- Some **further changes over centuries are now irreversible** including further melting of global ice sheets and warming/acidifying of the ocean; but reaching global net zero by 2050 could slow these changes, though it won't stop them
- **Strong call for joint action on climate change and biodiversity loss**

Cross-cutting key messages:

- **Very urgent reductions in Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) are needed**
- Every ton of CO₂e adds to warming; so **every bit of warming avoided matters**, even if/when we go past 1.5C - there is a near linear relationship between increased GHGs and increased global temperature
- **Governments need to make Net Zero a core part of their commitments to the Paris Agreement** (via their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)), including a pointed reference to restoring natural habitats and cutting methane emissions
- The IPCC are calling for **joint action on climate and biodiversity loss**, with recognition that climate change will have systemic effects on nature and is already doing so, and that restoring nature will help in turn to address climate change
- It is **critical that Governments invest in adaptation alongside mitigation**, including much more investment in early warning systems
- **Further impacts are inevitable**, and in some cases, this is true for centuries to come (i.e. sea level rise)
- **COP26 will be the best chance to get agreement to the action that is needed.**

Source: Kathryn Brown, Director of Climate Action at The Wildlife Trusts (including Somerset Wildlife Trust)

Dated: August 2021