

GLOBAL SHIFTING CITIES: FUTURE SUMMER HEAT

WMO and Climate Central launch a new interactive map and video series on the increasing summer heat in cities around the world.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 5, 2017

PRINCETON, N.J. – In a year already marked by heatwaves and new daily temperature records, television weather presenters and Climate Central explored how climate change would make future summers even hotter in some of the world's major cities.

If greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase, Earth's average global surface temperature could rise more than 4°C (7.2°F) by the end of the 21st century. What does this global average mean for the daily lives of people living in Madrid, or Hanoi, or more than 300 cities around the world?

To find out, Climate Central, a research and communications organization based in the United States of America, downscaled the global climate models assessed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to see the effect on summer temperatures in various cities by the year 2100. It used two different climate change scenarios (high emissions and moderate emissions) and matched each selected city with a city that already experiences such temperatures.

WMO and Climate Central invited weather presenters from a dozen countries to work with meteorological services and other national experts to explore the implications. For example, by the end of the century the citizens of Paris (where daily summer high temperatures now average 22.7°C) may see summer high temperatures like those today in Fez, Morocco (29.2°C).

Some of the assessed cities could see their average maximum daily temperatures in summer rise by as much as 5-9°C. No place on Earth is currently as hot as the average summer highs that cities such as Doha and Baghdad could experience if global emissions remain high.

"The enhanced heat – and an expected increase in associated extreme weather like summer storms – will have major implications for energy and water supplies, public health and transportation" said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas. "More intense heatwaves would also often lead to poorer air quality, which can even be lethal," he added.

Miguel Ángel Mancera, the Mayor of Mexico City and the Vice Chair of C40 Cities for Latin America, said: "By 2050, about 80 per cent of the world's population will live in urban areas. Fortunately, a growing number of cities around the world have committed to taking action to reduce emissions and pursue sustainable development. I am convinced that with local action we can achieve global goals."

The new video series is part of an initiative by WMO, Climate Central, and weather presenters to make climate science more accessible so that the public can better understand how climate change affects the local and national weather conditions that impact daily life.

Explore and visualize the "Shifting Cities" of future of summer heat in Climate Central's interactive map here.

Watch the "summer in the city" climate reports on the WMO YouTube channel here. Video Schedule:

5 July -Madrid and Barcelona, TVE

6 July - Montreal, MétéoMédia

7 July - Frankfurt, ARD

10 July - Sofia, NOVA TV

11 July - Hanoi, VTV

12 July - Cape Town, SABC

13 July - Brussels, VTM Nieuws

14 July - Buenos Aires, National Meteorological Service

17 July – Berlin, ZDF

18 July - Paris, France TV

Fri July 21 – Havana

Mid-July - Miami, NBC/El Mundo

August – Tokyo, NTV