

# Gary's Changing Climate

Are you noticing...



Hotter  
summer  
days?

If emissions stay as-is, we are projected to experience up to **31 days over 95 degrees by 2050**



More rain and  
flooding?

Photo from 2008 flood of the Little Calumet River

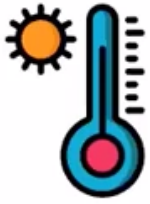


Health issues  
from poor air quality?

There were **7 IDEM Air Quality Action Days** in the Gary region in 2019

These are impacts of climate change that citizens of Gary are experiencing right now

# Defining Climate Change



**Weather** is what happens in a specific place, at a specific time

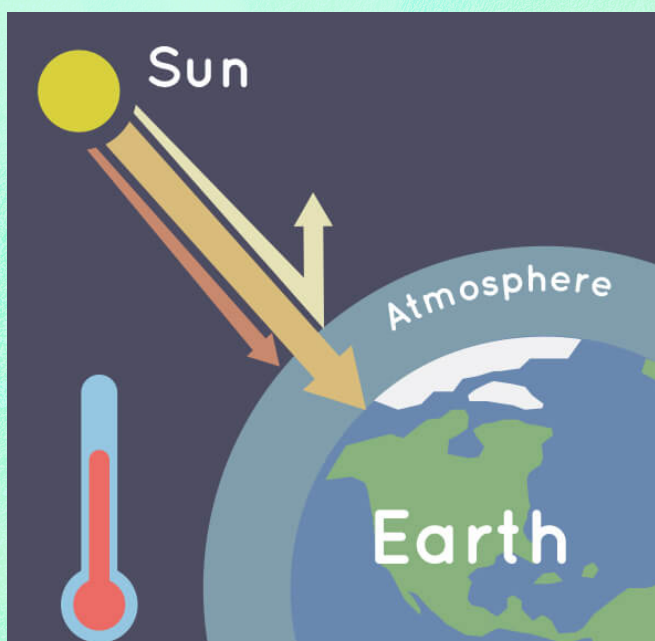
**Climate** is the long-term average of weather over many decades

Indiana has warmed 1.3 degrees over the past 125 years. While this may seem small, it has major impacts on our environment including:

- fewer cold days
- longer frost-free seasons
- 6.5 more inches of rainfall annually

These impacts are affecting our communities, our businesses and our families today through increased water demand, asthma and other respiratory problems, flooding and water pollution, and increased heating and cooling costs

**THESE PROBLEMS WILL AMPLIFY OVER THE NEXT 30 YEARS DUE TO THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT**



Carbon Dioxide is what we call a heat-trapping, or greenhouse gas. These gases have the unique ability to let light from the sun pass right through the atmosphere and then block the heat that is radiating off the earth. As we burn coal, oil and natural gas to drive, power our homes, and throw waste into the landfill, it adds Carbon Dioxide to this layer and accelerates warming of the earth.

Can we build  
resilience  
to a  
changing  
climate?

Can we reduce our  
emissions  
to avoid the most severe  
impacts?

yes

## What is the city of Gary doing?

For over a decade, the Gary Office of Sustainability and Environmental Affairs has focused on building climate resiliency by implementing numerous programs from planting native trees to monitoring air quality. In 2017, Gary joined the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, committing to take aggressive, measurable local action to address the climate crisis. A thorough, city-wide greenhouse gas inventory which was completed in 2019.

## What can I do?

### Fill out a survey!

We want to hear your experience with climate change and thoughts for how to best prepare our community.

Follow the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Affairs on Facebook for program and climate action updates.

Learn more about ways to reduce your carbon footprint and live more sustainably.