

***Climate and Health E-News***

***Raising Awareness about Climate Change and Public Health in the Circumpolar North  
No. 115, May 25, 2012***

**Circumpolar Climate Events Map** Click [here](#) to view this month's Google map. You can also post a map comment [here](#), or visit our [archive](#) back to June 2009.

**Alaska's notorious birch pollen tough on people with allergies** *May 17, 2012.* Birch trees produce one of the most aggressive pollen allergens ([ScienceDaily](#)), and Alaska has some of the highest birch pollen counts in the world. The worst comes in a four-to-six week period that usually begins in early May. This year warm dry weather is probably making things worse. [Anchorage Daily News](#)

**Finland has increasing UV radiation and melanoma cases** *May 24, 2012.* Finland has for years recorded increases in rates of malignant melanoma (skin cancer). Scientist have shown that climate change is one of the factors causing thinning of the stratospheric ozone layer, resulting in more UV radiation reaching the surface of the earth and a range of health effects ([WHO](#)). Over the past decade the rate of UV radiation exposure in Finland has increased by 10 percent, and now residents face "moderate" health risk from unprotected exposure to the sun. [Yle](#)

**In Iqaluit, Canada climate change hurts access to country foods** *May 15, 2012.* A new study looks at the effects of unseasonably warm weather during the winter of 2010-2011. A study by a graduate student from McGill University has documented a variety of impacts including impeded hunting because of poor ice conditions. The project illustrates that poor socio-economic conditions coupled with poor environmental conditions can causes traditional food systems to suffer. [Nunatsiaq Online](#)

**Mysterious disease killing seals and sickening walrus and polar bears** *May 2012.* Climate change is expected to cause ice withdrawal and stress animals that live on ice. So when sick seals started showing up on the beaches in Barrow last July, some thought that this was the latest evidence of Arctic warming. [KNBA](#)

**Old ways disappear in the new Mongolia** *May 24, 2012.* Two out of every five Mongolians make their living herding goats, sheep or camels. But Mongolia is in transition and changing environmental, social and economic conditions are contributing to the emergence of new lifestyles. Rising temperatures and decreasing rainfall has 70 percent of the country suffering from desertification. At the same time a mining boom for coal, gold and copper has caused the economy to grow faster than anywhere on the planet. [NPR](#)

**Video of the Week: Desertification erodes Mongolian livelihoods** *July 2007.* This 3 minute news story explores climate change, desertification and the effects on the nomadic lifestyles of Mongolia. [YouTube](#)

Climate and Health E-News is received around the circumpolar north by people who are interested in climate change impacts and public health. For back issues click [here](#). To subscribe or unsubscribe, please click [here](#).

*Regards – Mike*

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***Safe, Healthy, Sustainable Communities***