

Climate and Health E-News

***Raising Awareness about Climate Change and Public Health in the Circumpolar North
No. 116, May 31, 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.

Local Environmental Observers (LEO) Map Click [here](#) to view this month's Google map of Local Environmental Observer ([LEO](#)) postings from across Alaska.

SPECIAL REPORT – Climate Change in Selawik Alaska, May 2012. Since 2009, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, [Center for Climate and Health](#) has been assessing climate change impacts in Alaska communities. The latest report focuses on the river delta community of Selawik, located about four miles north of the Arctic Circle. Here permafrost thaw, erosion and land settling is causing extensive damage to homes and other infrastructure, and disrupting public services including drinking water. [Read report PDF](#)

Northern Alaska lakes getting a closer look *March 26, 2012.* Scientists are taking a closer look at Alaska's thermokarst lakes, some of the fastest changing landforms on the planet. The result is a large network of arctic lakes with weather stations on the shores, temperature-sensing and lake level buoys and other equipment. Some lakes are growing while others are drying up affecting birds and villages that use the lakes for drinking water. [Fairbanks Daily News Miner](#)

Bark beetle may impact air quality, climate *May 23, 2012.* A growing number of lodge pole pine trees are dying in the National Parks, victim of the infestation of pine bark beetle. Also, atmospheric haze caused in part by tiny solid particles suspended in the air is becoming a problem and a potential health hazard in these areas. A new study shows these two phenomena may be related, tied together by chemistry and climate change factors. [ScienceDaily](#)

Invasive plants may threaten native berries *May 28, 2012.* Climate change is allowing invasive plants to take hold in Alaska and possibly luring pollinators away from native berries says UAF ecologist Christa Mulder. Blueberries and cranberries are a major part of Alaskan's subsistence lifestyle, but share similar habitats and pollinators with invasive plants such as sweet clover. [Tundra Drums](#)

Video of the Week: Flash storm floods Montreal *May 29, 2012.* This 2 minute news story documents the outcome of a pair of unusually intense thunderstorms that pounded the Montreal area on Tuesday. See more on this month's climate events [map](#). The storms unleashed torrents of water that quickly overwhelmed the city's sewer system and caused widespread flooding of streets and buildings. [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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Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Safe, Healthy, Sustainable Communities