

Climate and Health E-News

Raising Awareness about Climate Change and Public Health in the Circumpolar North

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Circumpolar Climate Events Map Click [here](#) to view this month's map. You can comment on our map [here](#), or visit our [archive](#).

Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network Map – Click [here](#) to see this month's LEO map for Alaska.

Boston plans for rising tides *August 21, 2012.* While many cities around the country grapple with drought and excessive heat this year, city planners in Boston have something else on their minds: the prospect of rising water. In this coastal metropolis, scientists and computer models predict that climate change could eventually lead to dramatic increases in sea level around the city. Coupled with a storm surge at high tide, parts of the city could easily end up under water. Officials are studying the potential impact on roads and sewers and are asking waterfront developers to plan for increased flooding. [NPR](#)

Climate change could increase levels of avian influenza in wild birds *August 29, 2012.* Each year hundreds of thousands of migratory birds gather in Delaware Bay to feed on horseshoe crab eggs. The area is known as a hot spot for avian influenza virus. An article published in the August 29 issue of [Biology Letters](#), found that if ruddy turnstones reached Delaware Bay several weeks earlier or later than their current May arrival date, influenza infection rates in the species would increase significantly, driving up the infection rates. [ScienceDaily](#)

Why are Arctic rivers spewing so much fresh water into ocean? *July 30, 2012.* A new study has found that discharge from three rivers into the Arctic Ocean is increasing. The study, published in [Nature Climate Change](#) found that the Ob, Lena and Yenisey rivers are all contributing 10 percent more water than they did 60 years ago. That's about 1,700 cubic kilometers or about one Lake Ontario of freshwater discharged into the Arctic Ocean every year. More warm air masses were finding their way to northern Eurasia due to climate change. That trend and its "atmospheric moisture transport," correlates with an increase in the amount of water entering the Arctic Ocean via rivers. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

The Food Web *August 17, 2012.* Last summer I helped Colleen Swan and her family till a garden and plant a raised bed garden box in Kivalina. Colleen has been getting more and more interested in growing food. Afterwards her parents, Joe and Lona Swan, invited me inside to eat lunch. It was hot and sunny. I washed up and sat down at their table. The food was just what I hoped for: kauk (boiled walrus skin and blubber), tukaayuk (sea lovage) greens in seal oil, dried trout, and dried ugruk meat (otherwise known as black meat). [Arctic Sounder](#)

Video of the Week: Pacific sea level rise – effects on two nations *June 2, 2010.* People in the countries of Kiribati and Tuvalu are already being forced from their homes due to sea level rise, and the island nations are expected to be completely submerged in the coming years. This five minute United Nations video summarizes the situation and their plans for the future. [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