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Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network Updates – We have seven new posts on our [July Map](#) including heat wave related concerns and a bumper berry crop in Nondalton, suspected invasive plants in Levelock, unusual insects in Selawik and in St. Marys, and a strange water invertebrate in Russian Mission. You can visit our map [archives](#) and follow LEO on [Facebook](#)

Circumpolar Climate Events Updates – Hot, dry weather across much of the circumpolar north has resulted in temperature records and water rationing in Alaska, the first calendar month ever without any rainfall in Vancouver Canada, and in Norway, a shortage of fodder for livestock and a rash of wildfires. See our [Climate Events Map](#)

Alaska's boreal forests burning more due to climate change July 22, 2013. The largest U.S. wildfires in the last decade of record-breaking blazes have been in the wilds of Alaska, where fires have blackened more than a half-million acres at a time. A new study predicts more of the same for North America's boreal forests, the Far North belt of spruce and fir trees that extends from interior Alaska across Canada. [Los Angeles Times](#)

New Brunswick Canada residents worry that weather is a sign of climate change July 30, 2013. Some people in Grand Lake believe recent rain, flooding and a tornado in the region are a sign of more dramatic and permanent changes to the climate. The community was recently hammered with about 13 centimeters of rainfall. Earlier this month, a tornado hit the area producing winds of up to 175 km/h and leaving a path of destruction about 15 kilometers long. [CBC](#)

Oily sheen on Athabasca River likely due to algal bloom July 11, 2013. The mysterious oily sheen spotted on the Athabasca River in Northern Alberta last week is not oil or gas — it's likely a large blue-green algae bloom. The Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation said the algae were likely caused by runoff caused by record-high waters, combined with record-high temperatures in the region. When the algae blooms died, they released an oily sheen which resembled oil. Leaders from the northern Alberta First Nation became concerned when fish in the river were showing up dead. The oily layer covered 100 kilometers. [CBC](#)

Perception of climate change by the Nenets people of Vaigach Island, Russia November 2011. Arctic climate change is having significant impact on environment, economic activity, and public health. A questionnaire was given to the population of Nenets who rely to a large degree on hunting, fishing and reindeer herding for survival. Climate change has already had an impact on daily life according to more than 50% of the respondents. The winter is colder and longer and the summer season colder and shorter. A decrease in standard of living was noticeable but few were planning to leave. [Global Health Action](#)

Video of the Week – Arctic Tundra Mosquitoes July 27, 2013. It has been a bad mosquito season in Alaska. So bad in fact, that communities from Anchorage up to the Arctic Slope sold out of insect repellent. This video taken by Shannan Sweet at the Toolik Field Station however, will make many people feel a little better about their mosquito situations. [YouTube](#)

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

Regards – Mike

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