

Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network Map – View our January map to see our most recent posts from Local Environmental Observers, including record high temperatures, lack of snow and ice, and unusual environmental events across Alaska. See new posts from Shaktoolik, Bethel, Nanwalek, Unalakleet, and St. Michael. [ANTHC](#) Visit our [archives](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#)

Climate Events in the Circumpolar North - View our January map to see media reports from the circumpolar north. In Alaska and Western Canada, record high temperatures bring winter buds and a false springtime. Haines Junction is warmer than Orlando Florida. Ski areas close, races and events cancel. A massive avalanche closes road to Valdez indefinitely, open water reported region wide. Further east in Canada, record setting cold. Finland has navigation concerns as water levels drop by over half a meter. [ANTHC](#)

Forget snowfall – winter rain becoming new normal in Alaska and Arctic January 28, 2014. *Yereth Rosen* - For the past decade, almost all of the Anchorage School District's weather-related school closures have been caused by winter rain that turns roadways into toboggan runs. Other parts of Alaska including areas well to the north are coping with similar problems. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

Warm up effects subsistence, December 11, 2013. *Angela Denning-Barnes* - Normally in December, the Bethel area is covered in snow and ice but it's been unseasonably warm so far. In fact Bethel broke a record Dec. 6 reaching 48 degrees. The Y-K Delta is known for winter warm ups but the amount of them lately has some folks scratching their heads. "A lot of people rely on white fish and black fish," Brandon Aguchak says. "They can't go out and get these things here for their families so I think some people do have a hard time without checking their traps." [KYUK](#)

Sochi 2014 – will warm weather disrupt the games? January 6, 2014. The role Mother Nature will play on outdoor events in Sochi, Russia, continues to draw attention. In February 2013, Sochi saw temperatures reach as high as 63 degrees Fahrenheit, and rarely dipped into the low 30s. The prospect of warm weather disrupting ski events and the possibility of flooding and avalanches have served as additional headaches for organizers, who are dealing with a variety of issues and complications other than Sochi's subtropical climate. [International Business Times](#)

It takes a village to save a village, January 24, 2014. *Jillian Rogers* - As the Northwest village of Shishmaref falls off into the Chukchi Sea more and more each winter, its residents have no choice but to take their plight to those who can hopefully make a difference. Last week, five Shishmaref residents traveled to the nation's capital to plead their case to policy makers. They brought with them experiences and stories of how climate change is taking away their homes, their livelihoods and their subsistence way of life. [Arctic Sounder](#)

Coalition of Arctic youth break the ice, January 29, 2014. *Sarah Rogers* - Youth from across the circumpolar world will gather in Ottawa this weekend — virtually and in person — for the inaugural conference of [The Youth Arctic Coalition](#). The Coalition, gathers young people from around the circumpolar north to create a stronger voice on Arctic issues. The conference will be focus on topics including food security, climate change, culture and language and resource development. [Nunatsiaq Online](#)

Video of the Week – More avalanches in Valdez You have probably seen the [amazing video](#) of the avalanche that blocked Keystone Canyon and the road to Valdez. But have you seen what is happening in Valdez itself? With two weeks of temperatures in the 30s and a couple days of heavy rain, the snow on the mountains around town finally let go. [YouTube](#)

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

Regards – Mike

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