



Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network – Please see our [LEO Network – Fall 2014](#) map for new posts about environmental changes across Alaska. Visit our map archive and follow us on Facebook.

Climate Events in the Circumpolar North - View our Circumpolar Climate Events Map - [Fall 2014 Map](#) for news reports about avian influenza in BC, the midwinter break up on the Kuskokwim River, orphaned polar bear cubs in Nunavut, and the declining bird populations in Finland. See our map archive [here](#).

Alaska must lead on ocean acidification and fast December 7, 2014. *Hannah Heimbuch* - By the year 2100, ocean acidity could increase 100 to 150 percent. A massive number when we're considering the sensitivity of marine life to water chemistry. Alaska must be a leader in research and education, and in our dedication to understanding and mitigating the long-term effects of ocean acidification. [Arctic Sounder](#)

BC wildfire risk to soar with climate change December 4, 2014. *Greg Rasmussen* - B.C. communities are threatened by what the forests ministry calls "mega fires," saying they will be so large current firefighting techniques won't be able to cope. The report calls for "fire-adapted communities and fire-resilient landscapes." Homeowners should start by assessing risks to their properties, and then look at how structures are located, how fire resistant materials are used and if the landscape and vegetation can be altered to lower the risk. [CBC](#)

Operation Santa delivers presents and attention to erosion threats in Shishmaref December 8, 2014. *Zach Hughes* - For the last 58 years the National Guard has brought presents and holiday cheer to remote communities across Alaska as part of Operation Santa Clause. But the festivities over this past weekend also draw attention to the serious environmental challenges rural communities are coping with. [APM](#)

Wetlands more vulnerable to invasives and climate changes December 9, 2014. Changing water temperatures, rainfall patterns and seasonal river flows linked to global warming may give invasive wetland plants a slight but significant competitive edge over less adaptable native species, according to a groundbreaking three-year field study conducted at 24 riparian wetland sites in the US Southeast. [ScienceDaily](#)

Video of the week: Demystifying ocean acidification June 30, 2014. This animated film by the California Academy of Sciences is fun to watch and provides an excellent primer on the topic of ocean acidification and biodiversity. [YouTube](#)

The 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 at the Alaska Medical Library, click [here](#). To subscribe or unsubscribe, click [here](#).

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