



The Northern Climate Observer

Climate Change and Health in the Circumpolar North

January 8, 2015 (No. 229)

Dear Readers,

We start the year with a new name - *The Northern Climate Observer* in recognition of our mission to inform about the news and events occurring in our communities and to share and encourage good ideas about achieving wellness in a rapidly changing world. We hope you like it, and we look forward to hearing more of your good ideas and observations in the coming months.

Best Regards - Mike

Local Environment Observer (LEO) Network – Please see our [2014 Map](#) for observations about unseasonable weather in Nanwalek, the lack of sea ice in Wales, and whitefish concerns in Bethel. [LEO Map Archive](#)

Circumpolar Climate Events – Find links on our [2014 Map](#) to press reports about the warmest year ever in Sweden and Alaska, and our [2015 Map](#) to learn about the die-off of Auklets in BC. [CCE Map Archive](#)

With caribou declining hunting restrictions on the horizon December 27, 2014. *Jillian Rogers* - Caribou are an important resource for subsistence hunters and their families, and they also provide a source of income for guides and outfit owners who bring hunters up from the Lower 48 to get their fill. But with the harvestable surplus declining, something's got to give. [Arctic Sounder](#)

Caribou hunt collapse haunts Northern Quebec December 23, 2014. *Marika Wheeler* - The sport hunt on the George River herd was cancelled in 2011 because the herd numbers had plummeted. People who used to bring caribou hunters up to northern Quebec say the Great White North is tarnished by hundreds of abandoned hunting camps, many of which have been ravaged by bears. [CBC](#)

Colville Lake, NWT turns to solar for power December 29, 2014. *Robyn Burns* - For years, the community of about 190 has been dealing with unreliable diesel power. "Their electricity needs have been steadily growing and it's been causing outages on the system," says Myra Berrub. There were 60 power outages last year — an average of one a week. [CBC](#)

New super insulated homes rising across Alaska's North Slope January 3, 2014. *Suzanna Caldwell* - For Alaska homeowners, plumbing "freeze-up" is a recurring fear. But the housing authority in Barrow has figured out one way to prevent that problem: building super-insulated homes in villages in the region. [Alaska Dispatch News](#)

Video of the Week – Mysterious Seabird Dead January 6, 2015. Scientists are trying to determine why thousands of tiny seabirds called Cassin's auklets have washed up on the West Coast, all the way from B.C. to California. [CBC](#)

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