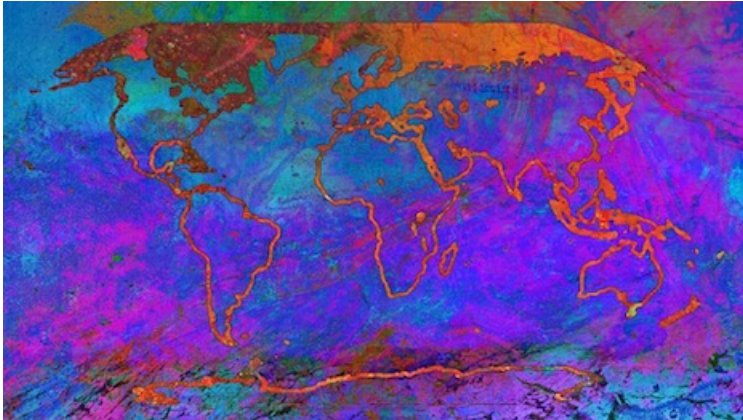


RESEARCH

UN delivers shocking climate change reality check

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Climate change is affecting every region of the Earth, and is intensifying. Image credit: UN IPCC

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

The United Nations' [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) has released new data regarding the rapid rate of global warming.

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Emissions of greenhouse gases from human activity have been responsible for approximately 1.1 degrees Celsius of warming since 1850, but over the next 20 years, global temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming, according to the IPCC Working Group I report "Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis." IPCC warns that, unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5 degrees Celsius will be impossible.

"This report is a reality check," said Valrie Masson-Delmotte, co-chair of IPCC Working Group I, in a statement. "We now have a much clearer picture of the past, present and future climate, which is essential for understanding where we are headed, what can be done and how we can prepare."

Faster warming

IPCC projects that in the next few decades, climate changes will be seen across all regions. For every degree of warming, there will be increased heat waves, long warm seasons and short cold seasons.

At 2 degrees of warming, heat extremes would reach critical tolerance thresholds for agriculture and health.

Climate change is intensifying the water cycle, bringing more drastic rainfall and associated flooding, as well as more intense drought in different regions.

Coastal areas will see continued sea level rise throughout the century, contributing to more frequent and severe coastal flooding in low-level areas and coastal erosion.

IPCC notes that extreme sea level events that would occur once in a century could happen every year by the end of the 21st century.

Warming will amplify permafrost thawing and the melting of glaciers and ice sheets, as well as the loss of seasonal

snow cover and summer Arctic sea ice.



Fashion contributes significantly to climate change, but brands like Stella McCartney actively aim to reduce their carbon footprint and encourage others to follow suit. Image credit: Stella McCartney

Changes to the ocean, including warming, marine heatwaves, acidification and lower oxygen levels have been linked to human influence. These changes affect both ocean ecosystems and the people that rely on them.

The report provides a more detailed regional assessment of climate change, including a focus on informing risk assessment, adaptation and decision-making. Additionally, it provides a framework to help translate physical changes in the climate, such as heat, cold, rain, drought, snow, wind and coastal, into what they mean for society.

"It has been clear for decades that the Earth's climate is changing, and the role of human influence on the climate system is undisputed," Ms. Masson-Delmotte said.

However, the report shows that human actions still have the potential to determine the future course of climate, such as slowing the rate of warming. IPCC suggests that carbon dioxide is the main driver of climate change, even as other greenhouse gases and air pollutants also take a toll.

"Stabilizing the climate will require strong, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and reaching net zero CO₂ emissions," said Panmao Zhai, co-chair of IPCC Working Group I, in a statement. "Limiting other greenhouse gases and air pollutants, especially methane, could have benefits both for health and the climate."

Acknowledging carbon dioxide's effect on the planet, British automaker Bentley Motors has made significant strides toward reducing and, ultimately, eliminating CO₂ emissions.

Towards the end of 2020, Bentley became the first luxury auto company to run its in-house logistics on 100 percent renewable fuel. Ensuring that environmental factors are at the center of current and future supply chain design is core to the company's vision of sustainability.

Following the installation of hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) fueling facilities in Crewe, Bentley took another step closer to its goal of becoming the most sustainable luxury automotive manufacturer ([see story](#)).

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