



NEWS ROUNDUP

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CCC IN THE NEWS:

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By: Mark Poynting

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WMO

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Geneva, Switzerland (WMO) – The Earth's climate is more out of balance than at any time in observed history, as greenhouse gas concentrations drive continued warming of the atmosphere and ocean and melting of ice, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). These rapid and large-scale changes have occurred within a few decades but will have harmful repercussions for hundreds – and potentially thousands – of years.

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The Climate Change Commission (CCC) underscored the importance of strengthening climate resilience through strategic investments during the 2nd Adaptation Investment Forum.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC calls for stronger climate governance integration at Interagency Summit for Philippine Sectoral Development Planning](#)

PASAY CITY — The Climate Change Commission (CCC) called for stronger climate governance integration, interagency coordination, and policy harmonization in development planning during the Interagency Summit for Philippine Sectoral Development Planning held at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

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The Earth's climate is further out of balance than at any time in recorded history, the UN's weather agency has warned.

The World Meteorological Organization says that our planet is gaining much more heat energy than it can release, driven by emissions of warming gases such as carbon dioxide.

This record "energy imbalance" heated the ocean to new heights last year and continued to melt our planet's ice caps.

And scientists fear that a natural warming phase called El Niño – expected to begin later this year - could soon bring further heat records.

In response to the report, UN Secretary General António Guterres reiterated his call for countries to move away from fossil fuels to renewable energy to "deliver climate security, energy security and national security".

"Planet Earth is being pushed beyond its limits. Every key climate indicator is flashing red," he warned, in a typically punchy video address.

The last 11 years were the Earth's 11 warmest years in records stretching back to 1850, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) says.

In 2025, global average air temperatures were about 1.43C above those of "pre-industrial" times - before humans started burning large amounts of fossil fuels.

A temporary cooling from the natural La Niña weather pattern meant that 2025 was not quite as hot as 2024, which was boosted by the opposite El Niño phase.

But last year was still one of the three warmest years since records began. Many scientists now believe that warming is accelerating, although they say temperatures are broadly within the range of long-term predictions.

And the WMO points to a wealth of other evidence showing that the climate is changing faster than we have ever seen before.

Perhaps the most comprehensive measure is the amount of extra heat energy being taken up by the Earth.

This "energy imbalance" ultimately drives climate change and reached a new high last year, the WMO says.

While scientists are still working out exactly why the Earth has accumulated so much extra heat over the past decade or so, they have no doubt that heat-trapping greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) are the root cause of the imbalance.

Levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere are at their highest for at least two million years, the WMO says, due to human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels.

Some of the extra energy trapped by these gases warms the atmosphere and the land, as well as melting the planet's ice.

The world's glaciers had one of their five worst years on record in 2024/25, according to provisional data, while sea ice at both poles was at or near record lows throughout most of 2025.

But more than 90% of the Earth's extra energy heats the oceans, which in turn harms marine life, drives more intense storms and contributes to sea-level rise.

The heat stored in the upper 2km (1.2 miles) of the global ocean reached a new high last year, the WMO says. Over the past two decades, it has been warming more than twice as quickly as during the late 20th Century.

"Human activities are increasingly disrupting the natural equilibrium and we will live with these consequences for hundreds and thousands of years," said Prof Celeste Saulo, secretary general of the WMO.

The report points to the impacts of rising temperatures today, which are helping to intensify many types of extreme weather and aiding the spread of diseases such as dengue.

The south-west US is currently in the midst of a record-breaking early-season heatwave, with temperatures exceeding 40C in places over recent days – about 10-15C above average.

Rapid analysis by scientists at the World Weather Attribution group on Friday found that intensity of heat would have been "virtually impossible" without human-caused climate change.

Researchers are also closely watching the Pacific Ocean, with long-term forecasts strongly suggesting that a warming El Niño phase could form in the second half of 2026.

An El Niño - on top of the background human-caused warming trend - could push temperatures to new heights into 2027.

"If we transition to El Niño we will see an increase in global temperature again, and potentially to new records" said Dr John Kennedy of the WMO.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Smart Agriculture Technology training kicks off](#)

By: Jonas Reyes

The Department of Science and Technology (DoST) began a three-day training program Wednesday for local government officials to deploy “smart” agricultural technologies designed to shield Central Luzon farmers from climate change and global economic shifts.

The event, held at Widus Hotel, included the formal signing of a memorandum of agreement for the Smarter Approaches to Reinvigorate Agriculture as an Industry in the Philippines (SARAI) project.

As part of the agreement, DoST-Central Luzon awarded automated weather stations to partner local government units to bolster data-driven farming.

Regional director Julius Caesar Sicat described agriculture as the cornerstone of the region’s economy but cited it is increasingly threatened by environmental pressures.

[Jollibee Group to switch off lights in 5,354 sites for Earth Hour](#)

The Jollibee Group will switch off non-essential lights in a record 5,354 stores and facilities worldwide for Earth Hour 2026, marking its largest participation to date.

The company said the initiative will cover 17 brands across multiple countries, as part of global efforts to promote energy conservation and address climate change.

Earth Hour, now on its 20th year, is a global campaign encouraging individuals and organizations to turn off non-essential lights as a symbol of collective environmental responsibility.

“As a global organization spanning multiple continents, countries, and time zones, we value initiatives that unite us as one Jollibee Group. Our participation in Earth Hour reflects our belief that collective action across thousands of locations can create meaningful momentum for environmental responsibility,” said Pepot Miñana, the company’s global chief sustainability and public affairs officer.

“Guided by our Joy for Tomorrow sustainability agenda, we will continue taking part in global initiatives that encourage responsible use of energy and strengthen our commitment to treating the world responsibly,” he added.

The company said its participation aligns with its “Joy for Tomorrow” sustainability program, which focuses on reducing carbon emissions and promoting responsible use of resources.

Participating brands include Jollibee, The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, Tim Ho Wan, Smashburger, Chowking, Red Ribbon, Highlands Coffee, Milksha, Greenwich, Hong Zhuang Yuan, Yonghe King, Mang Inasal, Burger King, Panda Express, Yoshinoya, Common Man Coffee Roasters and Tiong Bahru Bakery.

EURO NEWS

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Europe is experiencing record heat, extreme floods, water scarcity, biodiversity loss and growing political pushback on climate protections. The story is no longer about whether change is coming – it's about how it is reshaping daily life now.

As political debates intensify and climate protections face uncertainty, Euronews Earth will remain committed to evidence-based reporting, accountability and practical solutions.

The most significant change is a dedicated water section – giving a permanent home to stories about our most precious and threatened resource, from scarcity and drought to flooding, oceans and agriculture.

You can still rely on us to translate sustainability jargon into clear, human-centred reporting. To report global breaking climate news from a European perspective. And to explore solutions to the most urgent questions of our time. The same team, the same standards, a sharper lens.

Euronews Earth will uncover how the climate crisis is reshaping Europe now – and the innovations, policies and communities striving to make the Earth more liveable.

We'll be doubling down on first-person and on-the-ground storytelling from across Europe and beyond – bringing you the stories that matter from the people on the front lines of the climate and biodiversity crises.

GMA NEWS

[Philippines' main Earth Hour 2026 switch-off to happen in Pasig on March 28](#)

WWF-Philippines has partnered with Megaworld Lifestyle Malls as the official mall partner for Earth Hour 2026, marking a significant collaboration to mobilize communities and strengthen collective action for the environment.

Earth Hour is a global movement that calls on individuals, businesses, and communities to switch off non-essential lights for one hour—from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.—to highlight collective action against climate change and inspire more sustainable everyday practices.

The partnership was formalized on March 18, 2026, with the signing led by Graham Coates, First Vice President and Head of Megaworld Lifestyle Malls, and Katherine Custodio, Executive Director of WWF-Philippines—signaling a shared commitment to expand the reach and impact of Earth Hour across the country.

As the official mall partner, the mall group will host the Philippines' main switch-off event at Arcovia City in Pasig City on March 28, bringing together partners, stakeholders, and local communities for a symbolic lights-off ceremony that anchors this year's nationwide participation.

The event will feature a range of sustainability-driven initiatives, including a youth fair with local partners, a local hour bank initiative, and an Earth Hour virtual run. As the lights go out, the evening transitions into an “Unplugged” concert featuring The Riddleys, Clara Benin, and Lola Amour—transforming the hour into a shared, reflective experience that underscores the urgency of environmental action.

“Sustainability is a long-term commitment embedded in how we build and operate our communities,” said Graham Coates. “Through our partnership with WWF-Philippines for Earth Hour 2026, we aim to bring this global movement closer to everyday communities—encouraging collective action through simple but meaningful steps.”

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This nationwide participation reflects the company's broader commitment to sustainability, aligned with the real estate developer's long-term environmental goals, including energy efficiency initiatives, green building practices, and community-driven environmental programs.

Through this collaboration, the two entities aim to demonstrate how collective action—even within one hour—can inspire lasting environmental impact.

WMO

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Key messages

- WMO State of Climate report confirms 2015-2025 hottest 11 years on record
- Earth's energy imbalance is highest in sixty five-year record
- The ocean has been absorbing about eighteen times the annual human energy use each year for the past two decades
- Extreme weather impacts millions and costs billions
- World Meteorological Day: observing today to protect tomorrow

[WMO's State of the Global Climate report 2025](#) confirms that 2015-2025 are the hottest 11-years on record, and that 2025 was the second or third hottest year on record, at about 1.43 °C above the 1850-1900 average. Extreme events around the world, including intense heat, heavy rainfall and tropical cyclones, caused disruption and devastation and highlighted the vulnerability of our inter-connected economies and societies.

The ocean continues to warm and absorb carbon dioxide. It has been absorbing the equivalent of about eighteen times the annual human energy use each year for the past two decades. Annual sea ice extent in the Arctic was at or near a record low, Antarctic sea ice extent was the third lowest on record, and glacier melt continued unabated, according to the report.

“The State of the Global Climate is in a state of emergency. Planet Earth is being pushed beyond its limits. Every key climate indicator is flashing red,” said UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

“Humanity has just endured the eleven hottest years on record. When history repeats itself eleven times, it is no longer a coincidence. It is a call to act,” said Mr Guterres.

WMO's flagship State of the Global Climate report was released on World Meteorological Day on 23 March, which has the theme Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow.

For the first time, the report includes the Earth's energy imbalance as one of the key climate indicators.

The Earth's energy balance measures the rate at which energy enters and leaves the Earth system. Under a stable climate, incoming energy from the sun is about the same as the amount of outgoing energy.

However, increasing concentrations of heat-trapping greenhouse gases - carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide - to their highest level in at least 800,000 years have upset this equilibrium.

The Earth's energy imbalance has increased since its observational record began in 1960, particularly in the past 20 years. It reached a new high in 2025.

"Scientific advances have improved our understanding of the Earth's energy imbalance and of the reality facing our planet and our climate right now," said WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo. "Human activities are increasingly disrupting the natural equilibrium and we will live with these consequences for hundreds and thousands of years."

"On a day-to-day basis, our weather has become more extreme. In 2025, heatwaves, wildfires, drought, tropical cyclones, storms and flooding caused thousands of deaths, impacted millions of people and caused billions in economic losses," said Celeste Saulo.

The warming of the atmosphere including near the Earth's surface (the temperatures that humans feel) represents just 1% of the excess energy, whilst about 5% is stored in the continental land masses.

More than 91% of the excess heat is stored in the ocean, which acts as a major buffer against higher temperatures on land. Ocean heat content reached a new record high in 2025 and its rate of warming more than doubled from 1960-2005 to 2005-2025.

Another 3% of the excess energy warms and melts ice. The ice sheets on Antarctica and Greenland have both lost significant mass and the annual average Arctic sea-ice extent for 2025 was the lowest or second lowest on record in the satellite era. Exceptional glacier mass loss occurred in Iceland and along the Pacific coast of North America in 2025.

The warming ocean and melting ice are driving the long-term rise in global mean sea level, which has accelerated since satellite measurements began in 1993.

Ocean warming and sea level rise will continue for centuries, according to projections by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Changes in ocean warming, and deep ocean pH are irreversible on centennial to millennial time scales.

The report is accompanied by an interactive story map. It has a dedicated supplement on extreme events, highlighting their cascading impacts, including on food insecurity and displacement.

It includes a chapter on climate and health, showing how rising temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns and changes in extremes are affecting where and when health risks emerge, how severe they become and who is most exposed.

It highlights the examples of the mosquito-borne dengue disease and of heat stress – and illustrates how climate data, early warning systems and integrated climate services for health can protect people in a warming world.

“And in this age of war, climate stress is also exposing another truth: our addiction to fossil fuels is destabilizing both the climate and global security. Today’s report should come with a warning label: climate chaos is accelerating and delay is deadly,” said Mr Guterres.

The State of the Global Climate report 2025 is based on scientific contributions from National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, WMO Regional Climate Centres, United Nations partners and dozens of experts.

“WMO’s State of the Global Climate report seeks to inform decision-making. It is in keeping with the theme of World Meteorological Day because when we observe today, we don’t just predict the weather, we protect tomorrow. Tomorrow’s people. Tomorrow’s planet,” said Celeste Saulo.

Key Indicators

Greenhouse Gases

Data from individual monitoring stations show that levels of three main greenhouse gases – carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide – continued to increase in 2025.

In 2024 – the last year for which we have consolidated global observations - the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide reached its highest level in the last 2 million years, and methane and nitrous oxide in at least last 800 000 years.

The increase in the annual carbon dioxide concentration (CO₂) in 2024 was the largest annual increase since modern measurements began in 1957. This was driven by continued fossil CO₂ emissions, and reduced effectiveness of land and ocean carbon sinks.

Global mean near-surface temperature

The past eleven years, 2015–2025, were the eleven warmest years on record.

2025 was the second or third warmest year (depending on the dataset) in the 176-year observational record, reflecting the shift to La Niña conditions that temporarily cool the planet. The annually averaged global near-surface temperature was about 1.43 ± 0.13 °C above the 1850–1900 pre-industrial average.

The year 2024 – which started with a strong El Niño - remains the warmest year, at about 1.55 °C above the 1850–1900 average.

Ocean heat content

In 2025, ocean heat content (to a depth of 2,000 metres) reached the highest level since the start of records in 1960, exceeding the previous high set in 2024.

Over the past nine years, each year has set a new record for ocean heat content.

The rate of ocean warming over the past two decades, 2005–2025, is more than twice that observed over the period 1960–2005 – and is about 11.0–12.2 Zetajoules per year – about 18 times the annual human energy use per year.

Despite La Niña conditions, around 90% of the ocean surface area experienced at least one marine heatwave in 2025.

Ocean warming has far-reaching consequences, such as degradation of marine ecosystems, biodiversity loss and reduction of the ocean carbon sink. It fuels tropical and subtropical storms and exacerbates ongoing sea-ice loss in the polar regions.

Global mean sea level

In 2025, global mean sea level was comparable to the record-high levels observed in 2024.

It was around 11 cm higher than at the start of the satellite altimetry record in 1993.

The year-to-year increase from 2024 to 2025 was smaller than 2023 to 2024, consistent with short-term variability associated with La Niña conditions.

The rate of global mean sea-level rise since 2012 is higher than the rate of global mean sea-level rise in the earlier part of the satellite record, 1993–2011.

Sea-level rise damages coastal ecosystems and results in groundwater salinization and flooding.

Ocean pH

Around 29% of the CO₂ from human activities between 2015–2024 was absorbed by the ocean, leading to the continued decline in ocean surface pH. Global average ocean surface pH has declined over the past 41 years.

There is very high confidence that present-day surface pH values are unprecedented for at least 26,000 years, according to the IPCC.

Ocean pH changes show regional differences. The largest decreases in regional surface pH are observed in the Indian Ocean, the Southern Ocean, the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, the northern tropical Pacific and some regions in the Atlantic Ocean.

Ocean acidification harms biodiversity, ecosystems and food production from shellfish aquaculture and fisheries.

Glacier mass balance

In the 2024/2025 hydrological year, glacier mass loss from reference glaciers was among the five worst on record. This continues a trend of accelerated glacier mass loss since records started in 1950, with eight of the 10 years with the largest glacier ice loss occurring since 2016.

In 2025, exceptional levels of glacier mass loss occurred in Iceland and along the Pacific coast of North America.

Sea-ice extent

The annual average Arctic sea-ice extent for 2025 was the lowest or second lowest on record in the satellite era (1979), and the average Antarctic sea-ice extent for 2025 was the third lowest after 2023 and 2024.

The maximum daily extent of Arctic sea-ice (after the winter freeze) in 2025 was the lowest annual maximum in the observed record (since 1979) at about 14.19 million km².

The annual minimum daily extent of Antarctic sea-ice (after the summer melt) tied for the second lowest in the observed record. The past four years have seen the four lowest Antarctic sea ice minima on record.

Extreme Events and Impacts

A supplement to the report provides a snapshot of extreme events, based on inputs from WMO Members, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), focusing on the meteorological aspects and the impacts related to displacement and food security.

Extreme weather has cascading impacts on agricultural production. Climate-driven food insecurity is now seen as a risk, with cascading effects on social stability, migration and biosecurity through the spread of plant pests and animal diseases.

It also continues to drive new, onward and protracted displacement of people globally, with particularly severe consequences in fragile and conflict-affected regions. The cascading and compounding impacts of multiple disasters severely limit the ability of vulnerable communities to prepare for, recover from and adapt to shocks.

Climate and heat impacts on health

Climate change has wide-ranging impacts on mortality, livelihoods, ecosystems and health systems and amplifies risks such as vector- and water-borne diseases and mental health stressors, especially among vulnerable populations.

Dengue stands out as the world's fastest-growing mosquito-borne disease. According to the World Health Organization, about half the world's population is at risk and reported case are currently the highest ever recorded.

Heat stress is a growing problem. Over one-third of the global workforce (1.2 billion people) face workplace heat risk at some point each year, especially those in agriculture and construction. In addition to health impacts, this leads to productivity and livelihood losses.

As of 2023, only around half of countries provide heat early warning services tailored to the needs of the health sector, and even fewer have fully integrated climate information into health decision-making processes.

There is an urgent need to integrate meteorological and climate data with health information systems to allow decision-makers to move from reactive response towards proactive prevention which saves lives.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MANILA STANDARD

[CCC eyes climate resilience initiatives](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) underscored the importance of strengthening climate resilience through strategic investments during the 2nd Adaptation Investment Forum.

CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert E. A. Borje said that strengthening climate adaptation requires not only identifying solutions but also building the systems and investment pathways needed to implement them effectively

“The challenge of adaptation does not stop at discovering solutions. It also involves organizing institutions and creating investment pathways so solutions can actually happen,” Borje said.

The Philippine Adaptation Investment Platform (AIP), launched at the Forum, is an innovative mechanism designed to mobilize investments for climate adaptation initiatives, particularly those that protect and strengthen economically important yet highly climate-exposed food crops across the Philippines.

The AIP will support pilot implementations in several areas across the country, including Negros Occidental, Iloilo, Bukidnon, and Isabela, focusing on climate-resilient initiatives for key crops such as sugarcane, rice, coffee, corn, and other high-value agricultural products.

These initiatives aim to help protect the livelihoods of farming communities whose incomes depend on climate-sensitive agricultural production.

The AIP supports the implementation of the country’s National Adaptation Plan (NAP), which adopts a science-based and risk-informed approach to strengthening resilience across sectors and communities.

Developed under the leadership of Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., the NAP serves as the Philippines’ long-term roadmap toward building climate-resilient and climate-smart communities.

CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne S. Herrera urged local government units and development partners to take a proactive approach in prioritizing climate initiatives and investments.

“To our local governments: bring forward your priority projects—we are building mechanisms to help you structure, finance, and scale them. To our development partners and financial institutions: strengthen early-stage support, deploy catalytic capital, and help scale what works.”

Complementing the launch was the graduation ceremony for the first cohort of the Adaptation Investment Learning Course (AIRC), which aims to support the localization of the NAP by

equipping local governments and stakeholders with the knowledge and tools needed to develop viable adaptation investment projects.

The learning course is designed to help translate local climate knowledge into actionable and bankable adaptation initiatives that can attract investments and deliver tangible benefits to communities.

Borje stressed the importance of strengthening knowledge and capacity to help turn climate plans into concrete investments at the local level.

“Knowledge and capacity-building must become a launchpad for a pipeline of evidence-based adaptation investments. When investments reach the local level, the results are immediate and practical,” he added.

The event was co-presented by key national government agencies together with the CCC, with support from the United Kingdom Government led by Ambassador Sarah Hulton.

The CCC continues to advance partnerships and financing mechanisms that transform climate plans into concrete actions that protect communities, livelihoods and the country’s food systems.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC calls for stronger climate governance integration at Interagency Summit for Philippine Sectoral Development Planning](#)

PASAY CITY — The Climate Change Commission (CCC) called for stronger climate governance integration, interagency coordination, and policy harmonization in development planning during the Interagency Summit for Philippine Sectoral Development Planning held at the Philippine International Convention Center.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E. A. Borje emphasized the importance of strengthening policy coherence while ensuring that climate change considerations are integrated into development strategies across sectors.

“Our policies must align across sectors such as agriculture, water resources, energy systems, land use, infrastructure, and environmental management. National strategies must translate effectively into regional planning frameworks and ultimately into local implementation,” he said.

Borje also underscored the importance of national climate policy frameworks in guiding integrated and science-based development planning.

“The risks we face today are systemic. And if risks are systemic, our governance response must also become systemic,” he added.

The discussion highlighted key policy frameworks, including the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP), which serve as guiding instruments for the country’s climate and development pathways.

The NAP, developed under the leadership of Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., aims to steadily reduce climate-related loss and damage while enhancing the country’s adaptive capacity. The plan outlines long-term strategies to achieve transformative resilience and sustainable economic development by 2050.

Meanwhile, the NDCIP supports the country’s commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by 2030, guiding coordinated implementation across sectors and institutions.

The summit also formed part of the ongoing effort from the Draft Action Agenda aimed at strengthening interagency collaboration, policy alignment, and integrated planning across national government agencies and local government units.

The event was organized by the University of the Philippines Los Baños College of Forestry and Natural Resources, bringing together representatives from national government agencies, local governments, civil society organizations, development partners, the academe, and the media to advance more coherent and coordinated development planning in the Philippines.

The CCC reaffirmed its commitment to support interagency collaboration to ensure that the Draft Action Agenda evolves into a robust framework for integrated, agile, science-based, and climate-resilient development planning for the country.

=END=