

About the Cover

This figure for this edition's cover appears in chapter 17 of the "Climate Change Impacts in the United States: The Third National Climate Assessment" report, courtesy of Kenneth E. Kunkel, Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites – NC.

It illustrates the projected average number of days per year with maximum temperatures above 95°F for 2041-2070 compared to 1971-2000, assuming emissions continue to grow (A2 scenario). Patterns are similar, but less pronounced, assuming a reduced emissions scenario (B1). (Figure source: NOAA NCDC / CICS-NC).

Bear in mind that this figure was created on September 19, 2013. It is possible that a more recent evaluation with additional data and refined models may exhibit even more extreme possibilities.

Impacts of such change will be unavoidable, and will include those to human health, habitats and ecosystems, food sources and much more. It is incumbent upon current and future scientists to address these imminent issues and hopefully come up with viable solutions.

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