

What is Climate Change in Buffalo?

Climate change is causing huge impacts on the Great Lakes region that will create lasting effects on local people and the economy. Climate change impacts will also be disproportionately felt by socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods, such as low-income communities and communities of color.

Buffalo New York is surrounded by large water bodies and resides along the eastern edge of Lake Erie. The influence of these water bodies, specifically Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, creates a climate consisting of extremely cold winters and hot summers. However due to climate change, these weather patterns are expected to shift. Total **wet weather has increased by 14.9%** since the 1950s and are likely to get more frequent and intense. Average **air temperature has increased by 1.6°F** since the 1990s and may rise 3° to 5°F by 2050.

Climate change is largely caused by greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide, methane, etc.) which primarily come from burning fossil fuels for energy. However, there are additional landscape conditions that can worsen the effects of climate change by impacting infrastructure and vulnerable populations. Landscape **features that increase heat and flooding** include a lack of trees and green spaces, and high amounts of impervious surfaces (such as concrete and asphalt).

Although by managing these landscapes features and committing to a just transition off fossil fuels, Buffalo is building **climate smart communities** that will equitably adapt to the effects of climate change.



Extreme Wet Weather Events

Higher Temperatures & Heat Waves



TAKE OUR SURVEY

Tell us your thoughts about climate change in Buffalo!

<https://raincheckbuffalo.org/climate-change/>

BUFFALO
SEWER AUTHORITY

What Can Green Infrastructure Do?

Green infrastructure can be a community benefit and perform key services for the natural ecosystem. Buffalo's neighborhoods are being transformed by connecting people to their environment with urban installations of green infrastructure.

What you can do:

- Plant a **rain garden or tree**
- Help **spread the word** about GI
- Install a **rain barrel**
- Contact Buffalo Sewer about our **grant program**

RAIN CHECK 2.0

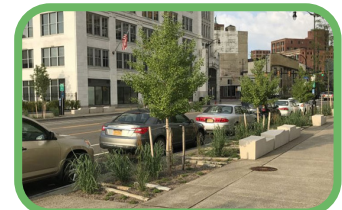
According to the non-profit Climate Central..

Buffalo's summers could resemble the summer weather in southern Florida by 2100. While warmer weather might not sound bad in the winter, it will threaten native habitat and impact local biodiversity, and also cause strain on Buffalo's buildings and infrastructure. Green infrastructure (GI) projects help build a **more resilient and sustainable city** and Buffalo Sewer is a key partner in addressing climate change in the region.

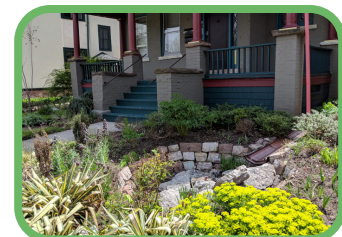
Green infrastructure **reduces climate change impacts** by decreasing air temperatures, preserving water resources, and decreasing large amounts of flooding. Green infrastructure also helps preserve natural habitat thus protecting wildlife and other ecological communities. Green infrastructure is an effective strategy and tool for equitable planning because surrounding communities also benefit from increased property values and physical wellbeing.



Elmwood Avenue stormwater planters installed.



Genesee Street stormwater planters and tree pits installed.



A disconnecting residential downspouts drains into yard.



Rain Check is Buffalo's Green Infrastructure Program.

Reach out to the Rain Check team!



716.851.4664



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raincheckbuffalo.org

