

## Shattered records show climate change is an emergency today

Unprecedented temperature levels mean more heatwaves, flooding, wildfires and hurricanes as experts say global warming is here and affecting us now

June 2016

May was the 13th month in a row to break temperature records according to [figures published this week](#) that are the latest in 2016's string of incredible climate records which scientists have described as a bombshell and an emergency.

The series of smashed global records has provoked a stunned reaction from climate scientists, who are warning that climate change has reached unprecedented levels and is no longer only a threat for the future.

Alongside the soaring temperatures, other records have tumbled around the world, from [vanishing Arctic sea ice](#) to a [searing drought in India](#) and the [vast bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef](#).

“The impacts of human-caused climate change are no longer subtle – they are playing out, in real time, before us.” “They serve as a constant reminder now of how critical it is that we engage in the actions necessary to avert ever-more dangerous and potentially irreversible warming of the planet.”

But the [spikes in global surface temperatures](#) in recent months did not just break the records, [they obliterated them](#).

The scorching temperatures mean 2016 is all but certain to be the hottest year ever recorded, beating the previous hottest year in 2015, which itself beat 2014. This run of three record years is also unprecedented. 16 of the 17 warmest years on record have been since 2000 – it's a shocking statistic.

Another shattered record is the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which is on course to [rise by a record amount this year](#), leaving the symbolic landmark of 400 parts per million to history.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/jun/17/shattered-records-climate-change-emergency-today-scientists-warn>