

Met Office News Release

3 January 2007

2007 – forecast to be the warmest year yet

Forecast for 2007

2007 is likely to be the warmest year on record globally, beating the current record set in 1998, say climate change experts at the Met Office.

Each January the Met Office, in conjunction with the University of East Anglia, issues a forecast of the global surface temperature for the coming year. The forecast takes into account known contributing factors, such as solar effects, El Nino, greenhouse gases concentrations and other multi-decadal influences. Over the previous 7 years, the Met Office forecast of annual global temperature has proved remarkably accurate, with a mean forecast error size of just 0.06 °C.

The Met Office forecast for 2007 shows that:

- The global temperature for 2007 is expected to be 0.54 °C above the long-term (1961-1990) average of 14.0 °C
- There is a 60% probability that 2007 will be as warm or warmer than the current warmest year (1998 was +0.52 °C above the long-term average)

The potential for a record 2007 arises partly from a moderate strength El Nino already established in the Pacific, which is expected to persist through the first few months of 2007. The lag between El Nino and the full global surface temperature response means that the warming effect of El Nino is extended and therefore has a greater influence the global temperatures during the year.

Katie Hopkins from Met Office Consulting said: "This new information represents another warning that climate change is happening around the world. Our work in the climate change consultancy team applies Met Office research to help businesses mitigate against risk and adapt at a strategic level for success in the new environment."

MORE...

The UK Climate Impacts programme (UKCIP) < www.ukcip.org.uk/ > also provides scenarios that show how our climate might change and co-ordinates research on dealing with our future climate.

Review of 2006

This startling forecast follows hard on the heels of news that 2006 was the warmest year on record across the UK.

For 2006, all UK data has now been gathered, revealing a similar story to that of Central England temperature already announced last month:

- For the whole of the UK, 2006 was the warmest year on record with a mean temperature of 9.7 °C, 1.1 C above the long-term average. This is in a temperature series that goes back to 1914.
- A summary of the UK figures are:

Region	Mean temp (°C)	Compared with long-term average (°C)	Sunshine (hours)	Compared with long-term average	Rainfall (mm)	Compared with long-term average
UK	9.7	+1.1	1507	113%	1176	104%
England	10.6	+1.2	1637	112%	851	102%
Wales	9.9	+1.0	1534	113%	1420	99%
Scotland	8.25	+1.1	1300	112%	1652	109%
N Ireland	9.7	+1.0	1408	115%	1156	104%

Autumn 2006 (September to November) was also exceptionally mild over many parts of Europe [link to http://www.wmo.int/web/Press/PR_768_English.doc] at more than 3 °C above the climatological average from north of the Alps to southern Norway. In many countries it was the warmest autumn since official measurements began.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- The Met Office is the UK's National Weather Service, providing world-renowned scientific excellence in weather and climate change.
- Met Office climate change consultancy provides data and risk-management services that are used by other government departments and agencies, the private sector and the public to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- The 95% confidence range of the forecast is that the temperature will lie between 0.38 °C to 0.70 °C above normal.
- Long-term averages are based on the period 1971-2000.
- Met Office Hadley Centre for Climate Change is funded by DEFRA and the MoD.
- Ranked warmest years in the series going back to 1914
 - 2006 9.73 °C
 - 2003 9.51 °C
 - 2004 9.48 °C
 - 2002 9.48 °C
 - 2005 9.46 °C.