



Climate Change & New York Wildlife Fact Sheet

The impacts of climate change are far-reaching, affecting New York's environment, economic security, public health, and safety. While extreme weather events place people in danger, cost billions in lost production and revenue, and damage or destroy communities, they also have a significant impact on New York's wildlife. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Wildlife Action Plan lists climate change as the second most pervasive threat to species and wildlife habitat in our state, behind invasive species. According to the DEC, climate change impacts wildlife by shifting habitats, increasing storms and flooding, as well as drought, and increasing temperature extremes.

How Climate Change Impacts New York Wildlife

Butterflies, bees, brook trout, and birds are just some of the many animals and insects important to our state's ecosystem that are threatened by climate change, which can have a cascading effect on plants and animals. For example, increasing temperatures can lead to the spread of invasive species that wreak havoc on the natural habitats and ecosystems wildlife relies on.



New York's public officials must find common ground to turn Governor Cuomo's stated climate goals into enforceable law. The development and deployment of clean energy technologies, energy efficiency for homes and businesses, and green jobs are key components of a sustainable solution. For wildlife, policies that preserve open space and the destruction of open space are needed.

Moose in the Adirondacks

While Moose sightings are not common in New York, this majestic animal has been making a comeback in the Adirondacks since the 1980s after disappearing from the New York landscape more than 100 years earlier. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation estimates that more than 200 moose live in our state.



The changing climate is distressing the moose population, making efforts to repopulate challenging. In New Hampshire alone, the number of wild moose has dropped from 7,500 to 4,000 over the past ten years. Scientists believe this is, in part, due to climate change that has increased temperatures, heat stress, and an increase in parasites detrimental to the Moose population.

Climate change is the single biggest threat to wildlife today. Policies and practices are needed to address climate change to reduce its harmful impact on threatened species. Taking on our changing climate can only be done by reducing carbon pollution and developing clean energy solutions, this in turn will help address some of the issues faced by declining wildlife populations.

True action to prevent climate change requires comprehensive planning. Enacting the Climate and Community Protection Act, strengthening the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) in New York, using RGGI auction revenues to prioritize frontline communities and developing policies to elevate clean energy will protect public health, invest in local economies, and create jobs.

Ensuring the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) is fully funded is also key as it helps communities in New York State preserve open space, conserve land and combat the impact of climate change through protecting and preserving land, protecting estuaries and watersheds, protecting clean water, wildlife habitats and assisting communities in prevent and prepare for climate change.

For more information visit Environmental Advocates of New York's webpage at www.eany.org.