

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON OHIO'S WATER RESOURCES

Most things don't become precious to us until we don't have them anymore. Sometimes when you have something every day you forget how precious it is. Clean water is one of those things. We are so fortunate in our area to have clean drinking water at our disposal every day, but climate change is impacting our water resources in more ways than we may realize globally and locally.



Flood May 2015
across I-70
near SR 201
in Huber Heights

The chain reaction from just one of several climate change impacts facing Ohio's water resources today is

WE ARE EXPERIENCING MORE FREQUENT and SEVERE STORMS and FLOODING

For Ohio's agriculture more frequent and severe storms and flooding MEANS MORE



- ◆ Soil erosion for farmers which requires more fertilizer to grow crops
- ◆ Crop loss which increases the farmer's expenses and losses, which then increases our food prices
- ◆ Difficulty in timing the planting, fertilizing and harvesting of crops inbetween spring and fall rain events
- ◆ Spread of invasive species, crop diseases and insect pests due to increased moisture, requiring more herbicides to control them
- ◆ "False Spring" warming events in winter months triggering plant growth that is lost when the weather gets cold again, as well as insects like the honey bee who emerge too early and have no food to eat as winter is not over

For Ohio's stormwater runoff, more frequent storms and flooding MEANS MORE POLLUTION from

- ◆ Oil, gas, brake dust and related fluids that are washed off vehicles and equipment with the increased rain
- ◆ Increased algae growth from the soil erosion and fertilizer nutrients entering our water resources
- ◆ Increased chemicals entering our waterways
- ◆ Increased toxins from floatable litter like plastics, cigarette butts and the like into our waterways
- ◆ Leaching of contaminants into prolonged saturated soils such as road salt and yard chemicals



REUTERS/Amanda Perobelli

Fortunately, there is a lot we as citizens can do to help! 1. Reduce your energy use 2. Waste less food, eat more plants than meat and compost 3. Plant more trees and vegetation 4. Buy recycled products 5. Talk to others about how to help!

Learn more at: **Miami Conservancy District** <https://tinyurl.com/5eu88jmw>, **Northwestern** <https://tinyurl.com/yckxc8am>, **Clean Choice Energy** <https://tinyurl.com/4a8ce2jp>, **USDA** www.fs.usda.gov/ccrc/education/climate-faq