



NAIDM  
2023

Zonta USA Caucus  
Gender-Equal Climate Action Presentation  
Friday, June 30, 2023



# Presenters

## **Zonta USA Caucus Gender-Equal Climate Action Committee members**

### **Jane Austin**

Zonta USA Caucus GECA – Committee Member,  
Lt. Governor – District 7, Zonta Club of Minneapolis St. Paul Area

### **Angela Brokmann**

Zonta USA Caucus GECA - Committee Co-Chair  
Area 2 Director - District 5 – Zonta Club of Louisville

### **Bobbee Cardillo**

Convener of Zonta USA Caucus, GECA Committee member  
District 3 Zonta Club of Fairfax County

### **Julie Trone**

Zonta USA Caucus GECA -Committee Co-Chair,  
District12 - *Action for Environment and Gender Equality* Committee Chair  
Club President – Zonta Club of Fort Collins



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BUILD A BETTER WORLD  
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS



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**CANADA**

EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

## **Guest Speakers:**

### **Judith Ainsworth**

Convener – Zonta Canada Caucus

Zonta Club of Ottawa, Canada

ZD2 UN Committee Chair 2020-2024

### **Marisa Mason-Smith**

Zonta Club of New Providence Bahamas

# Presenters

ZONTA SAYS NOW  
TO GENDER-EQUAL CLIMATE ACTION



# Session Outline

- Why is climate changing and how does climate affect us?
- Zonta International Statement – Climate Change, A Gender Equality Issue – Key Points
- Guest speakers (throughout the presentation)
- Sustainable and Recommended actions by partnering organizations – United Nations and the U.S. Women's Caucus at the U.N.
- Interactive activity / 5-minute break
- The Gender Equality connection to Zonta and Climate Change
- Advocacy Actions Your Club Can Take
- Resources – Virtual Tour
- Building a Better World for Women and Girls
- Q&A

  
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# Why is climate changing?

**Carbon dioxide traps heat, like a puffy coat**



Humans have increased the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere by 50% since 1750.

We've made Earth's insulating "puffy coat" thicker than it's been in millions of years. As a result, **our climate is warming rapidly.**

***Not just CO<sub>2</sub>:***

One pound of methane traps *25 times more heat* in the atmosphere than one pound of carbon dioxide. *But* methane lasts there for only about a decade – CO<sub>2</sub> lasts for centuries

Angela shares  
climate change and  
action that is  
occurring in the  
Southern region of  
the U.S.

# Angela's story

# Solar Powered Street Lighting



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# Mississippi River 2022

Barges stranded by low water sit at the Port of Rosedale along the Mississippi River on Oct. 20, 2022. Scott Olson/Getty Images







Jackson, Mississippi

2021 Water Crisis

Photo from: The Energy Mix – Climate News Network.

<https://www.theenergymix.com/2021/03/15/more-systemic-racism-than-storm-damage-in-jackson-mississippi-water-crisis/>



# Mayfield, Kansas

2021 Tornado

# Climate Impact

Slow Onset Changes  
Affect...

- Water
- Air
- Land
- Health
- Weather

Slow onset climate change leads to....

Climate Impact  
Slow Onset Changes

## Weather

Acute Onset Change affects...

- Increased Weather Intensity
- Increased Frequency of Intense and Damaging Weather Systems

Acute onset weather:

- Tornadoes
- Floods
- Drought
- Extreme Storms
- Prolonged Heat
- Excessive precipitation
- Extreme cold

## Climate Impact

Slow Onset Changes

## Weather

Acute Onset Changes



## How climate and weather affects Zonta Campaigns:

- Increases
  - Violence – *all types*
  - Child marriages
  - Homelessness
  - Loss of community due to displacement
  - Loss of job + income
  - Loss of business
  - Loss of childcare
- Decreases
  - Educational opportunities
  - Gender equality
  - Safety

Zonta International

- Districts
- Areas
- Clubs



Climate change is both a symptom & driver  
of growing global inequality,  
and unsustainable development.

You cannot achieve sustainable development without  
gender equality and environmental justice.

- **Water is a precious resource**
  - Scarcity increases domestic violence
  - Availability causes women and girls to travel farther for water placing them in danger of assault, physical and sexual
  - Poor quality decreases health status
  - Food scarcity follows water scarcity
- **Air quality is worsening**
  - Polluted air affects maternal and fetal health
  - Polluted air leads to increased respiratory diseases (more girls have asthma than boys in the USA)
- **Weather disasters are more frequent**
  - Evacuation and forced migration causes higher fatalities in women
  - Women and girls (and boys) in emergency shelters are more likely to be sexually assaulted
  - Domestic violence and human trafficking occur more frequently as a result of weather disasters that lead to loss of home

#ClimateChange

# WHO IS AT RISK OF CLIMATE CHANGE?

Those living in poverty, as well as women, children and the elderly.

Outdoor workers and people living with chronic medical conditions.

Children are the most vulnerable due to long exposure to environmental risks.

**EVERYONE  
EVERYWHERE**

Those living in megacities, small island developing states and other coastal, mountainous and polar regions.

Countries with weak health systems will be least able to prepare and respond.



Climate change a planetary phenomenon, but its effects are shaped by pervasive & entrenched gender inequality.

Heat waves, droughts, rising sea levels, and extreme storms disproportionately affect women.

Because women are more likely

- to live in poverty than men,
- have less access to basic human rights like the ability to freely move & acquire land, and
- face systematic violence that escalates during periods of instability.

These factors, and many more, mean that as *climate change intensifies*, **women** will struggle the most.

Source: Global Citizen

# How does climate change affect your community?

Floods



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

Fast snowmelt  
Permafrost melt



Photo by Dakota News Now

Tornadoes



Drought and  
extreme heat



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA](#)

## After effects of extreme weather:

- Water insecurity
- Food insecurity
- Loss of home and belongings
- Families become separated for survival
- Loss of childcare due to displacement
- Loss of transportation
- Loss of income
- Loss of farmland and crop damage
- Poor soil conditions
- Increased domestic violence
- Decreased shelter space for victims
- Increased gender inequalities
- Increased health inequities
- Increased child marriages
- Increased sexual assault

2022-23 WIN  
Shake! S

Extreme cold

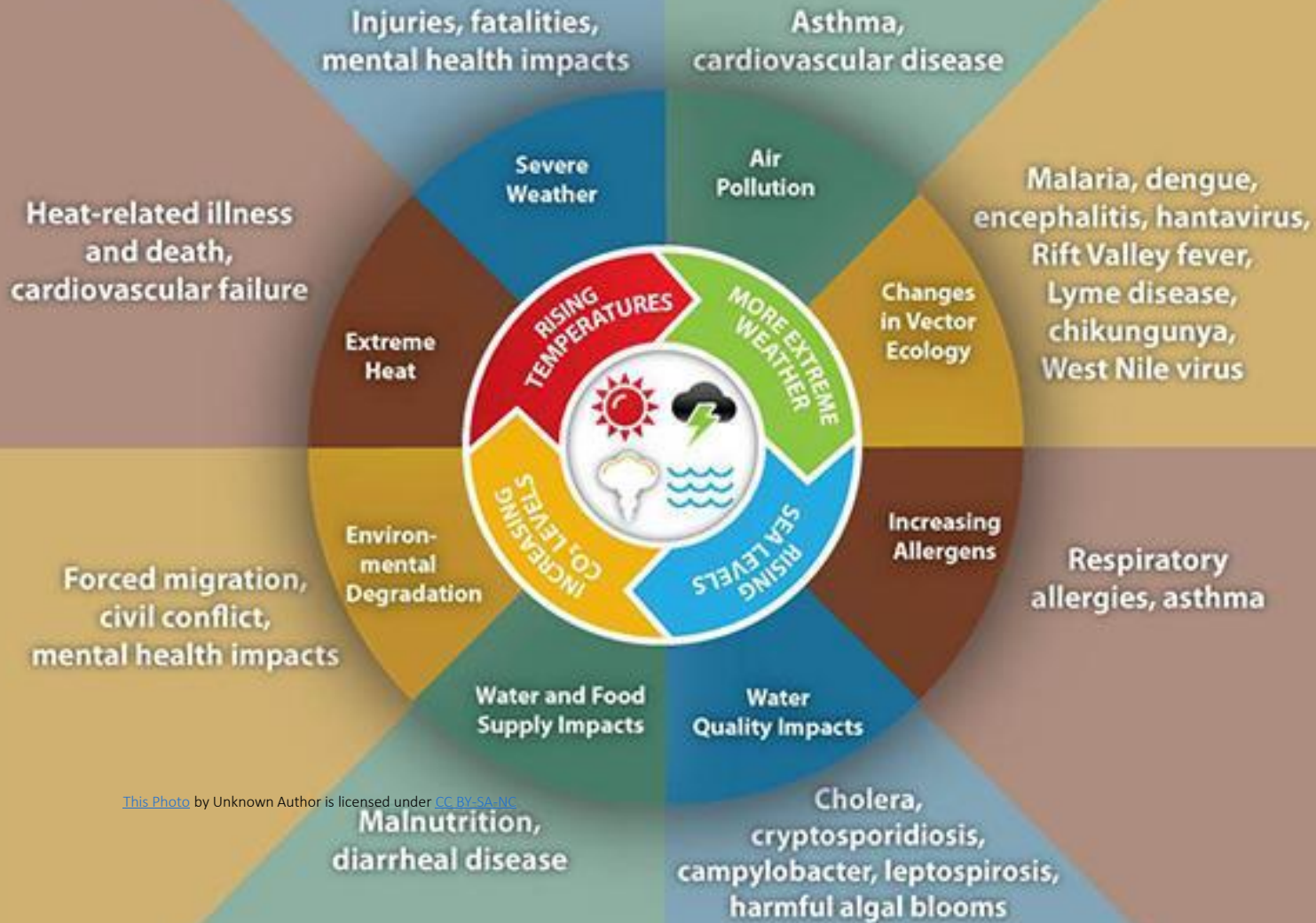


Volcanic  
activity and  
Earthquakes





# Impact of Climate Change on Human Health



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

What impacts are affecting your community?



# Zonta International Statement Climate Change A Gender Equality Issue

## Key Points

### Zonta International calls on **Members to:**

- Increase their own awareness of climate change and on its gender-related consequences and raise awareness locally.
- Include gendered climate change advocacy actions in their advocacy plans.
- Support the inclusion of women at the national and local tables of decision-makers on environmental sustainability.
- Promote girls' education and the inclusion of climate literacy in schools, as well as to promote girls' science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) studies to increase gendered scientific and technical contributions to climate change mitigation.
- Advocate for national policies that consider women's economic opportunities and ensures their full and equal participation in the economy.

**Climate is changing and we need to change too!**

**...We Can Advocate**

# Zonta International Statement

Climate Change  
A Gender Equality Issue

## Key Points

**Zonta International calls on Governments to:**

Ensure that climate adaptation and mitigation plans address the unique needs of women and the barriers to women's full participation in the economy, including

- Childcare and elder care services.
- Occupational segregation.
- Informal work.
- The gender pay gap.
- Legal and social restrictions.

**...We Can Advocate**

# Zonta International Statement

Climate Change  
A Gender Equality issue

## Key Points

**Zonta International calls on Governments to:**

Include women in the formation of disaster preparedness and response plans.

These plans should:

- Recognize the unique needs of women and girls.
- Prioritize their health and safety.
- Include responses to gender-based violence.

**...We Can Advocate**



2-minute video

**Zonta – Political? Partisan? Find Out Here video**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KH3ggJL2deQ>

2 Minute Video

Judith shares her experiences from her home country, Canada.

# Judith's story

Judith Ainsworth  
Zonta Club of Kanata  
now forming

# Climate Change and Gender – A Canadian Perspective



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## Population

2021 Census: 36,873,821

Area: 3,855,100 mi<sup>2</sup>

9,984,670 km<sup>2</sup>

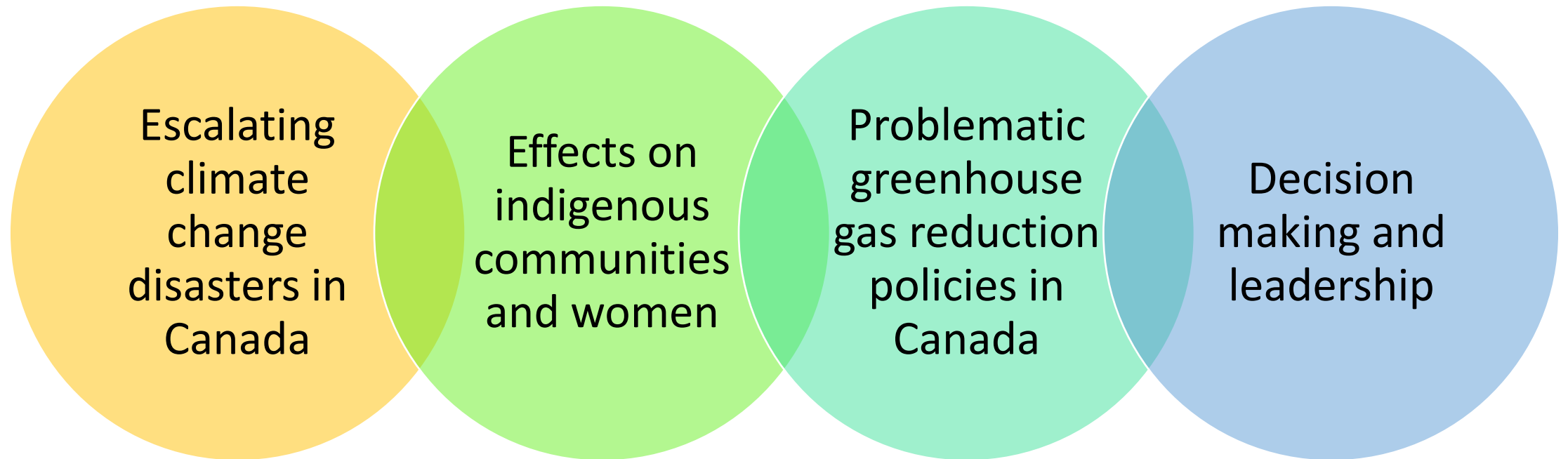
Source: Statistics Canada


10 Provinces

Three Territories



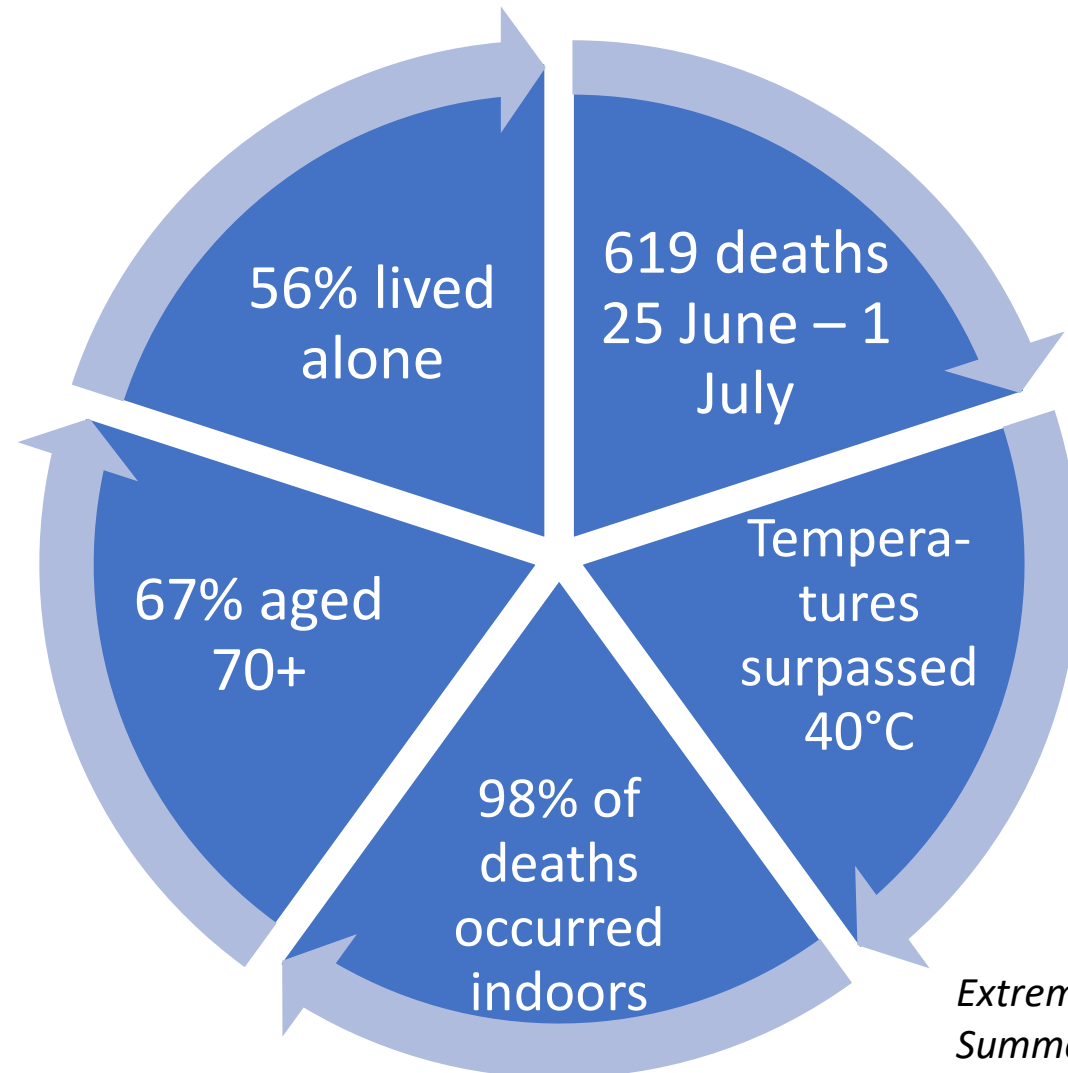
# Overview



The background of the slide features a series of concentric, curved lines in shades of yellow and white, creating a sense of depth and movement. The lines are most prominent on the left side and fade towards the right.

# Escalating climate change disasters in Canada

# British Columbia: 2021 western heat dome was the deadliest weather event in Canada to date



- Lag between heat alerts (Environment and Climate Change Canada) and public agencies and public response
- Age, preexisting health issues, poor housing, poverty contributed to deaths
- Women greater part of this group

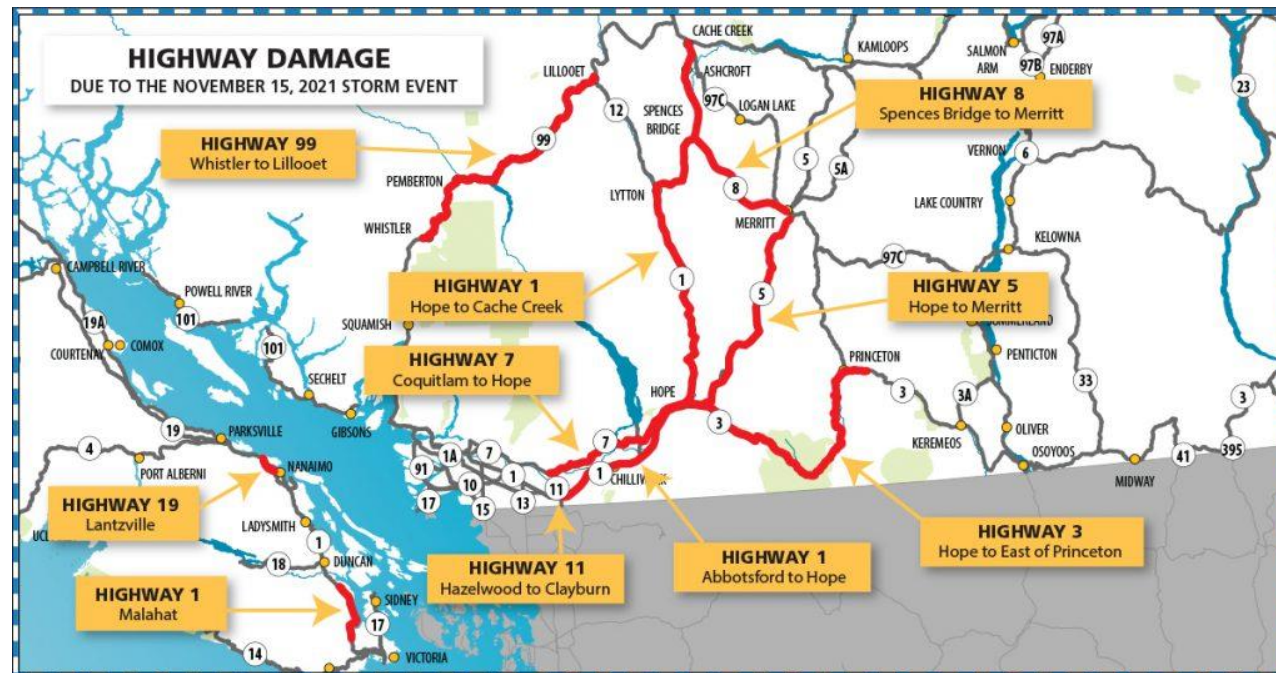
*Extreme Heat and Human Mortality. A Review of Heat Related Deaths in BC in Summer 2021, Report to the Chief Coroner of British Columbia, 7 June 2022.*

# B.C. flooding November 2021 was unprecedented

- Destroyed major bridges
- Sank large sections of highways into rivers
- Cut off every major route connecting Lower Mainland to rest of Canada



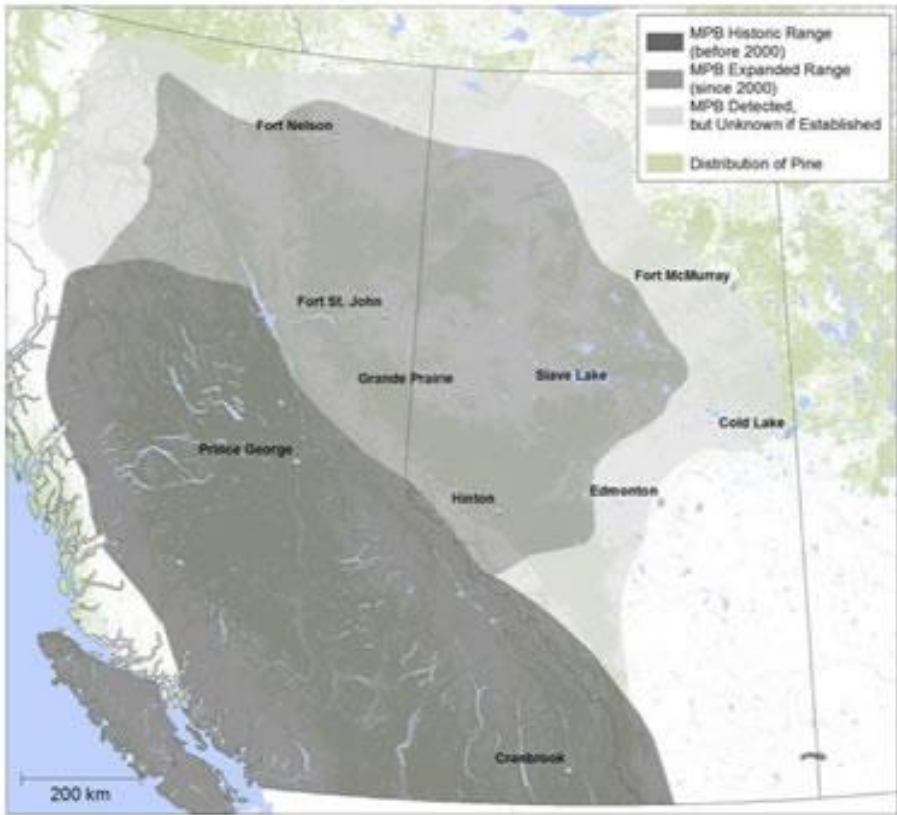
Highway 8 washout



- Stranded tens of thousands people
- Impacted huge volumes of livestock
- Halted billions of dollars in goods and services

<https://www.tranbc.ca/2022/05/10/bc-flooding-what-does-the-road-to-recovery-look-like-for-our-highways/>

# Milder winters and warmer summers contribute to Mountain Pine Beetle population growth and survival rates



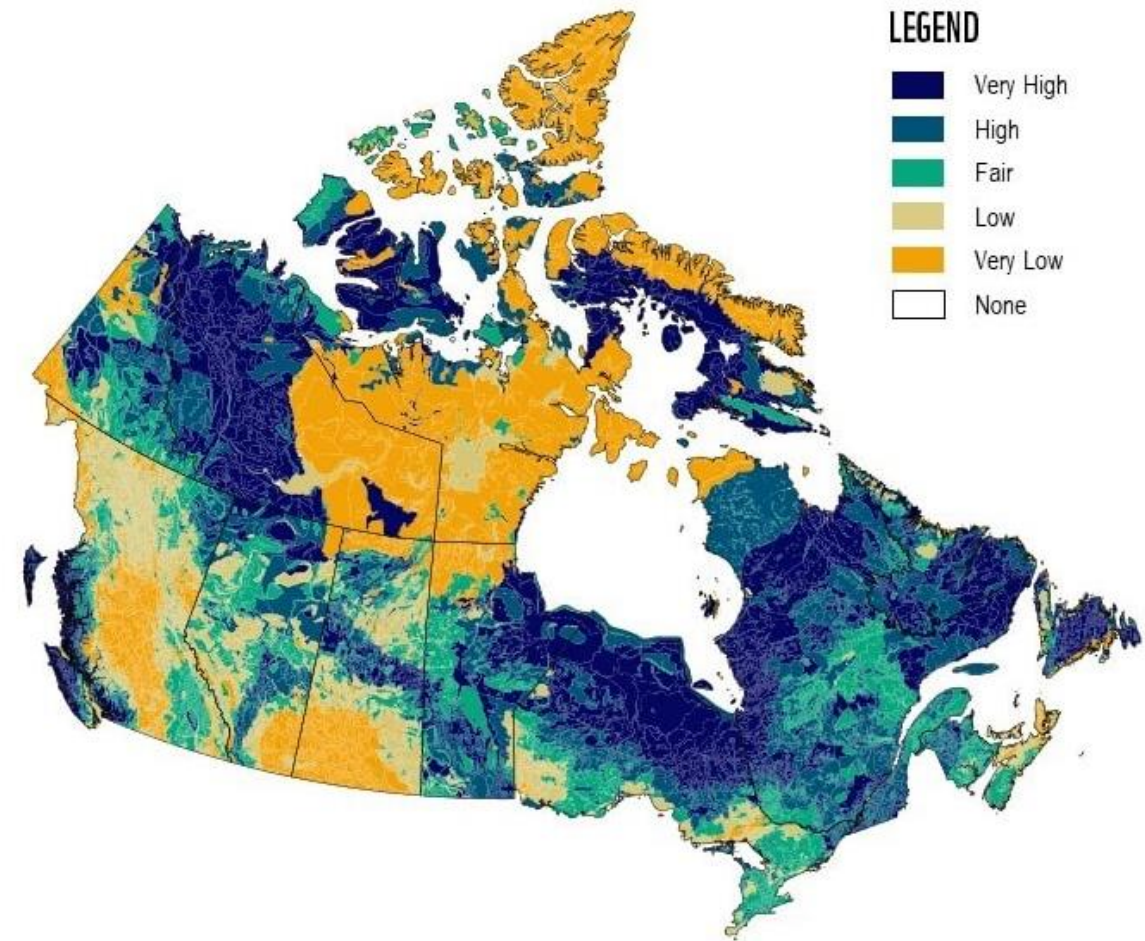
The historic range (before 2000) and expanded range (after 2000) of MPB in Canada.

- Jumped the Rocky Mountain barrier, spreading into **boreal forest** of north-central Alberta
- Pine stands in the **boreal forest** are typically less dense and have smaller trees than British Columbia's lodgepole pine forests
- Evidence suggests that pine stand characteristics may not delay the spread and establishment of the beetle in **boreal** pines

Canadian Forest Service Scientific Research. <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/our-natural-resources/forests/wildland-fires-insects-disturbances/top-forest-insects-and-diseases-canada/mountain-pine-beetle/13381>

# So what's the big deal about **boreal forests**?

- Canada — home to 25% of Earth's wetlands and boreal forests
- Naturally sequester carbon
- Per acre, boreal forests store about twice as much carbon as the Amazon forest
- More than 80% of that carbon stored in boreal soils
- Disturbing land through industrial logging emits well over 100 million tonnes of carbon in Canada per year



<https://thenarwhal.ca/climate-canadas-natural-landscapes/>

<https://thenarwhal.ca/canada-clearcut-logging-boreal-forest-report/>



**2023: Canada's worst wildfire season of 21<sup>st</sup> century (Emergency Preparedness Minister)**

- “This many fires from coast to coast at this time of year is not normal” - Mike Norton, Northern Forestry Centre, Department of Natural Resources
- Firefighters from South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, U.S., France, Portugal, Spain, Costa Rica



# Just how on fire is Canada right now? (14 June 2023)

- Since 11 March, 11 provinces and territories affected by thousands of forest fires, many out of control
- Second single-largest wildfire in British Columbia's history
- 108 forest fires in Alberta in May; state of emergency declared
- Almost 40% of fires are in Québec; evacuating more than 15,000
- 34 wildfires in Newfoundland and Labrador before 1 May; only two fires in same period last year
- Largest recorded forest fire in Nova Scotia history; 16,000 evacuated
- Wall of smoke across U.S.-Canada border; air quality warnings
- 2,536 wildfires across Canada already this year
- Almost five million hectares of land burned; more than burned in 2016, 2019, 2020 and 2022 combined



# Wildfire season 2023: Ottawa and Ontario

Unprecedented poor air quality readings

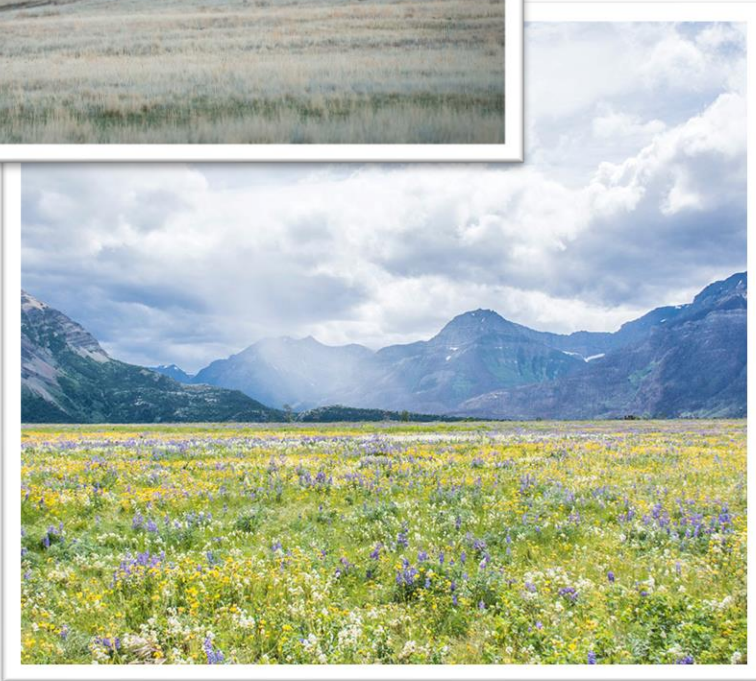
Peak reading 500 PM2.5 early Wednesday morning

72 PM2.5 at 16:00 Wednesday

Typical for Ottawa: under 10

Fine particulate matter linked to premature births, worsened lung disease among very young or most vulnerable, increased risk of heart attacks and strokes among elderly, respiratory & cardiovascular problems

# Canada's native **grasslands** are in danger; so are the living creatures that depend on them



- 1991 – 2016, almost 150,000 acres of native **grassland** converted to crops
- Losses: Alberta 4%; Saskatchewan 16%; Manitoba 25%
- Up to 100 years for soil to recover
- Over the past two and a half decades, Canada lost 25 million acres of **grasslands**
- Alberta and Saskatchewan protect only 1% of remaining **grasslands**

# So what's the big deal about **prairie grasslands**?

- One of most endangered ecosystems on the planet
- Kainai Nation citizens harvest medicine plants, hunt and hold ceremonies
- Uncultivated grasslands of Western Canada **store an estimated two to three billion tonnes of carbon** in their root systems and soil, making up some of the highest carbon stocks in the world
- Cultivated grasslands lose up to half their stored carbon and stop offering these ecosystem benefits

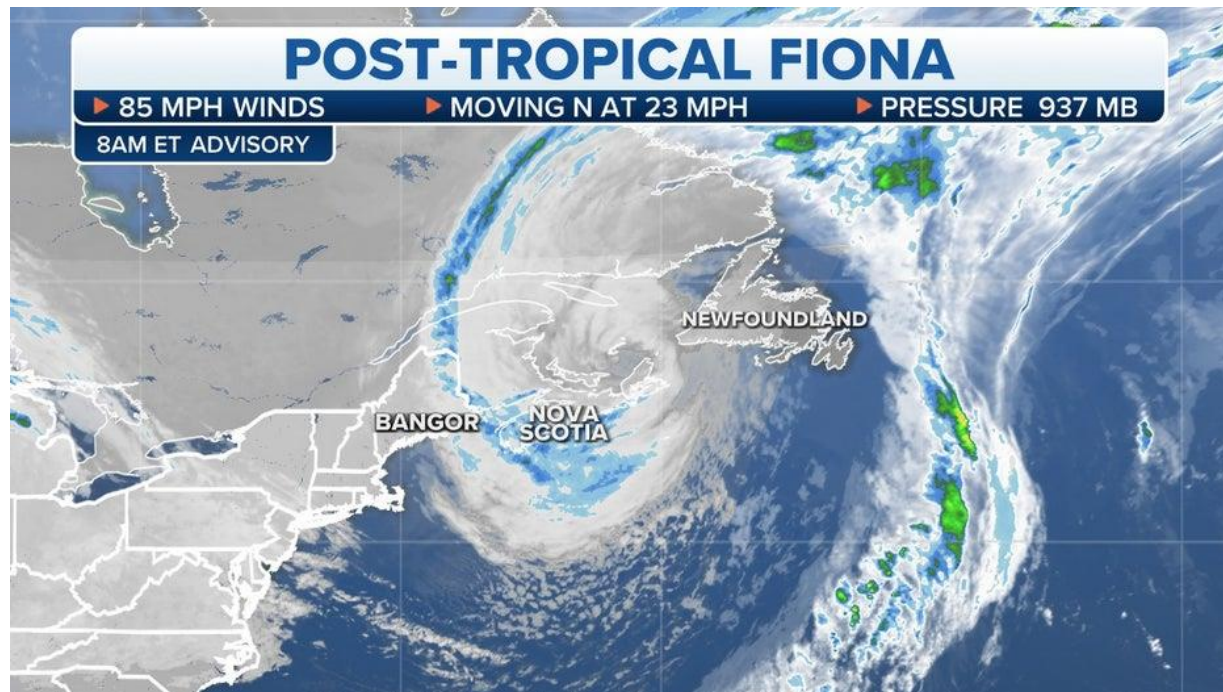
Ontario and Québec: winter storms, ice storms, spring flooding



# Hurricanes only occur occasionally in Canada, on average, about four times a year (WorldData.info)

## Ferocious Fiona Batters Canada

24 Sept 2022: costliest and most intense post-tropical storm to hit Canada on record



Year	No.	Locations
2022	3	Ontario (1), Nova Scotia (landfall), Newfoundland and Labrador (1)
2021	6	Nova Scotia (4), Newfoundland and Labrador (2) (one landfall)
2020	6	Nova Scotia and NLD (landfall), Quebec (landfall), NDL (2), Ontario (1), Nova Scotia (1)
2019	4	Nova Scotia (3), Ontario (1)

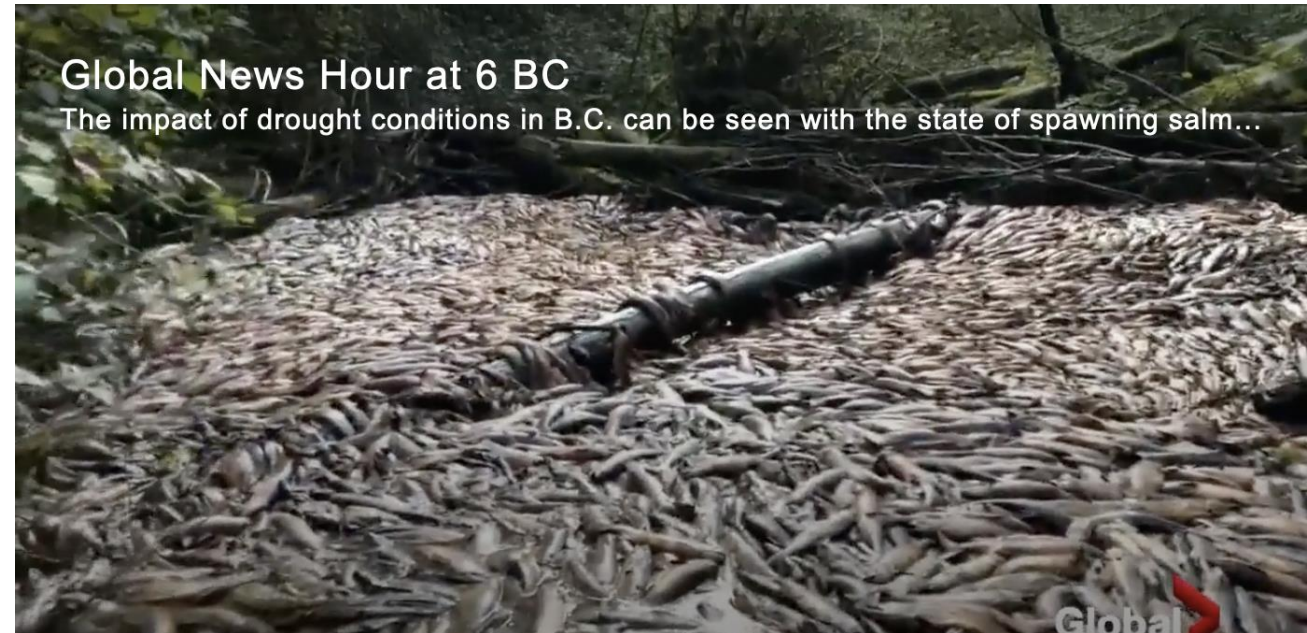
The background of the slide is a light green color with several thin, curved lines in a slightly darker shade of green. These lines are concentric and curve from the top left towards the bottom right, creating a sense of movement and depth.

# Effects on Indigenous Communities and Women

# Pacific northwest “Salmon peoples” culture and food depend on abundant salmon runs

Severely diminished salmon returns to the ocean in the autumn:

- Too warm spawning rivers; low water flow
- Changing ocean currents and temperature
- Reduced availability of ocean prey fish for salmon to feed on
- Women are main gatherers, preservers, planners and preparers of food in traditional societies



Global News. (6 October 2022). *Video shows hundreds of thousands of fish dead in dry B.C. creek bed.* <https://globalnews.ca/news/9182550/thousands-fish-dead-video-bc-river/>

# Yukon Territory, Northwest Territory and the Arctic experience warmer temperatures

Rise in annual temperature 2°C over past 50 years

Winters warmer by 4°C

Melting sea ice, glaciers, permafrost

More permafrost thawing due to “Ghost fires”

N.W.T. peak temperature of 31C on 3 May 2023, warmest 3 May on record, breaking the previous record of 27.2 degrees in 1898



# Northern indigenous populations experience food insecurity

## CAUSES

- Disappearing sea ice reduces the possibility of hunting for seals
- Changing ocean currents impact traditional fishing and whale hunting
- Ice roads freezing late and thawing early

## EFFECTS

- Increased cost of any foods that must be brought to the north
- Settler women in north equally affected by high supply prices
- Difficult overland transport of supplies



# Problematic greenhouse gas reduction policies in Canada

# Canada's numerous greenhouse gas reduction policies only now show signs of reducing high emissions

## COMMON POLICIES

- Subsidies for low-carbon technologies
- Overlapping jurisdiction policies undermine objectives
- 74% of policies help reduce additional emissions
- Incentivising electric vehicles



## MORE EFFECTIVE POLICIES

Mandatory regulations (carbon pricing)



Synchronised policy decisions



Policies to reduce current emission levels



Incentivising electric vehicles AND decarbonising electric grid create greater emissions reduction



Electric vehicles earn credits under the federal vehicle emissions standards that exceed their actual emissions intensity



Provincial policies, i.e., B.C.'s zero emission vehicle sales mandate, incentivise adopting electric vehicles



Higher emissions intensities from the rest of the vehicle fleet, but still meets federal standard



RESULT:  
net  
increase in  
emissions



<https://electricvehicles.bchydro.com/>

# Smaller impact from federal carbon tax in Nova Scotia due to “Cap and Trade”

- Limit set by emissions cap remains unchanged
- Additional policies don't necessarily contribute to any additional emissions reduction
- Simply shift costs and emissions between activities





# Decision making and leadership

# Problematic model for regulating/ accounting for greenhouse gas emissions from logging in boreal forest

- Modelling instead of using direct data (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change rules)
- Inaccurate accounting for areas that do not regrow
- Conservative assumptions of amount of carbon stored in boreal soils

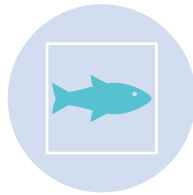
*“Unfortunately, while we may be able to creatively account for these things, the atmosphere does not recognize creative accounting.”*

- Skene, attorney, Natural Resources Defence Council

# Third year running, Ontario's Auditor General gave Tories a failing grade



Prioritising environmental deregulation over preservation



Automatically approving permits to harm endangered species



“Species at Risk Conservation Fund” dubbed a “[pay to slay](#)” fund



Failing to follow the Environmental Bill of Rights



“Deliberately ignoring” the law and the public right to be consulted



Environment Ministry suffering from lack of leadership

The Narwhal. (25 November 2021).

<https://thenarwhal.ca/ontario-environment-auditor-general/>



# Decision-making: synchronise climate change policies for effective emission control



Alberta oil and gas sector accounts for nearly 25% of GDP and 10% of government revenue in 2019

→ implemented about half the number of policies as BC, Ontario, Québec



Policies working together to achieve emissions targets

→ greater coordination and cooperation across, and between, governance levels



Energising inter-governmental bodies

→ Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment



Hon. Rebecca Schulz,  
Minister of Environment  
and Protected Areas,  
Alberta



Hon. Joanna Quassa,  
Minister of Environment,  
Nunavut

(Scott et al. (2023), Canada needs to synchronise its climate policies for effective emission control, *The Conversation*.)



# Decision-making: leverage nature-based climate solutions

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- Nature-based climate solutions could provide up to [one-third of emissions reductions needed](#) under the Paris Accord: maintain global temperature increases below 2°C
- Canada — home to 25 per cent of Earth’s wetlands and boreal forests, as well as endangered prairie grasslands and the world’s longest coastline — can play a vital role in the global fight against climate change.
- Easier to protect a forest than recreate an entire forest
- Built wetlands are 150% more expensive and worse at storing carbon than simply protecting a wetland

Griscom et al. (2017). Natural Climate Solutions, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*

Goals



**13**

**Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

Goals

**15**

**Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

Thank you!



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FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**



Consider these 7 recommendations as an advocacy idea template for your club

## Areas of 'Specific Recommendations'

Each of the  
recommendations can  
improve the lives of women  
and girls and make them  
more vulnerable

- ❖ Water
- ❖ Health
- ❖ Disasters – preparation and management
- ❖ Migration
- ❖ Indigenous Women
- ❖ Technology and Funding
- ❖ Agriculture and Food Security

United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals



Use any of the U.N. Sustainable Development goals as a template for ideas to build a better world for women and girls

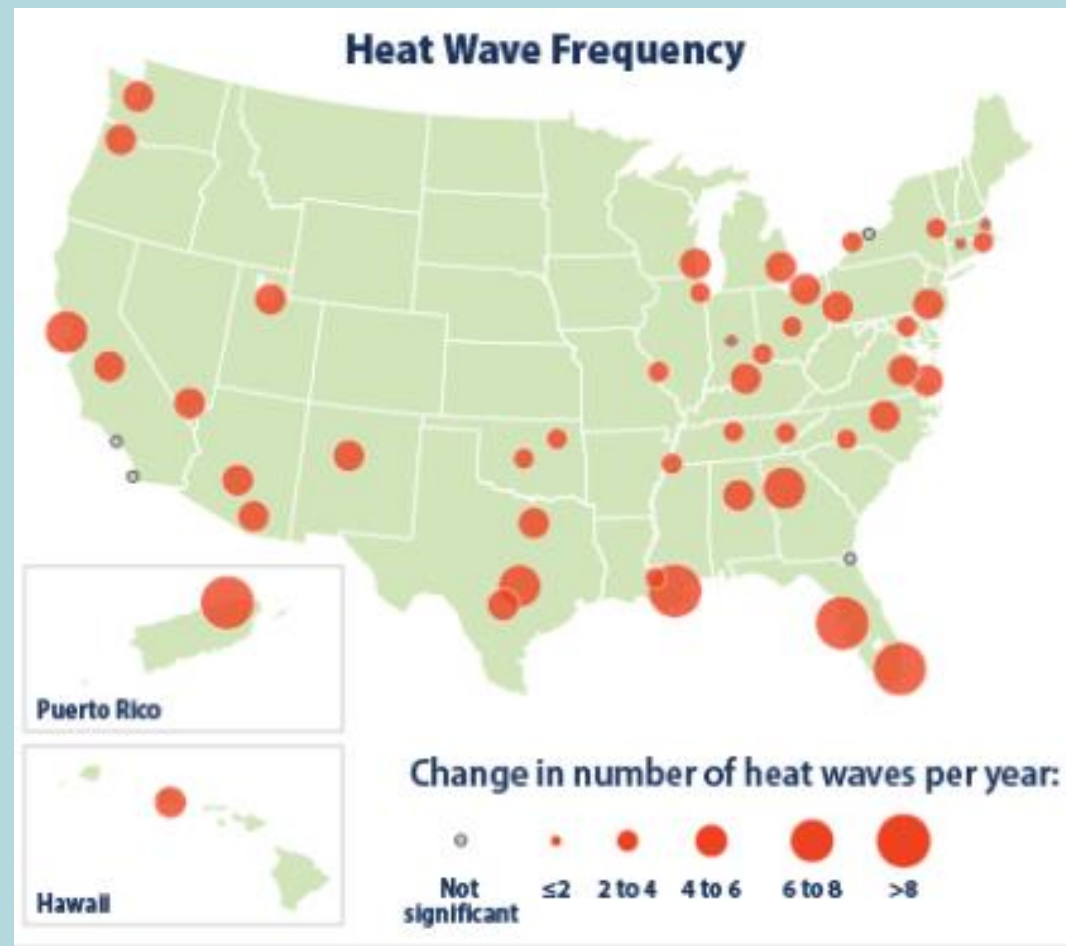
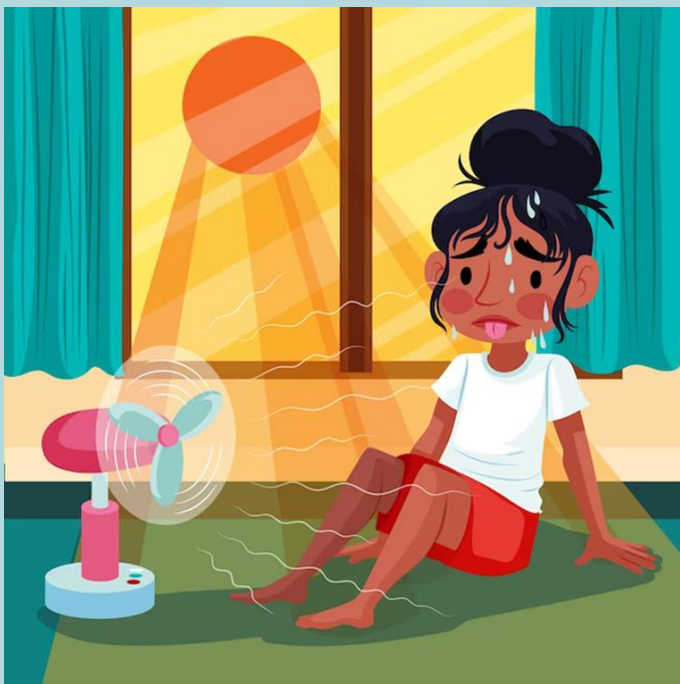
Jane shares her  
expertise in climate  
conditions relating  
to the dangers of  
heat

# Jane's story

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

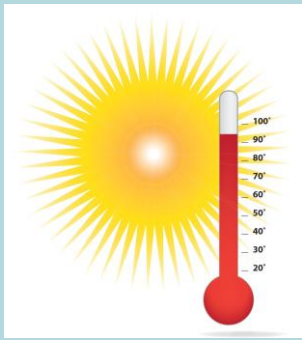


Extreme heat is the leading cause of illness and death from all weather-related hazards



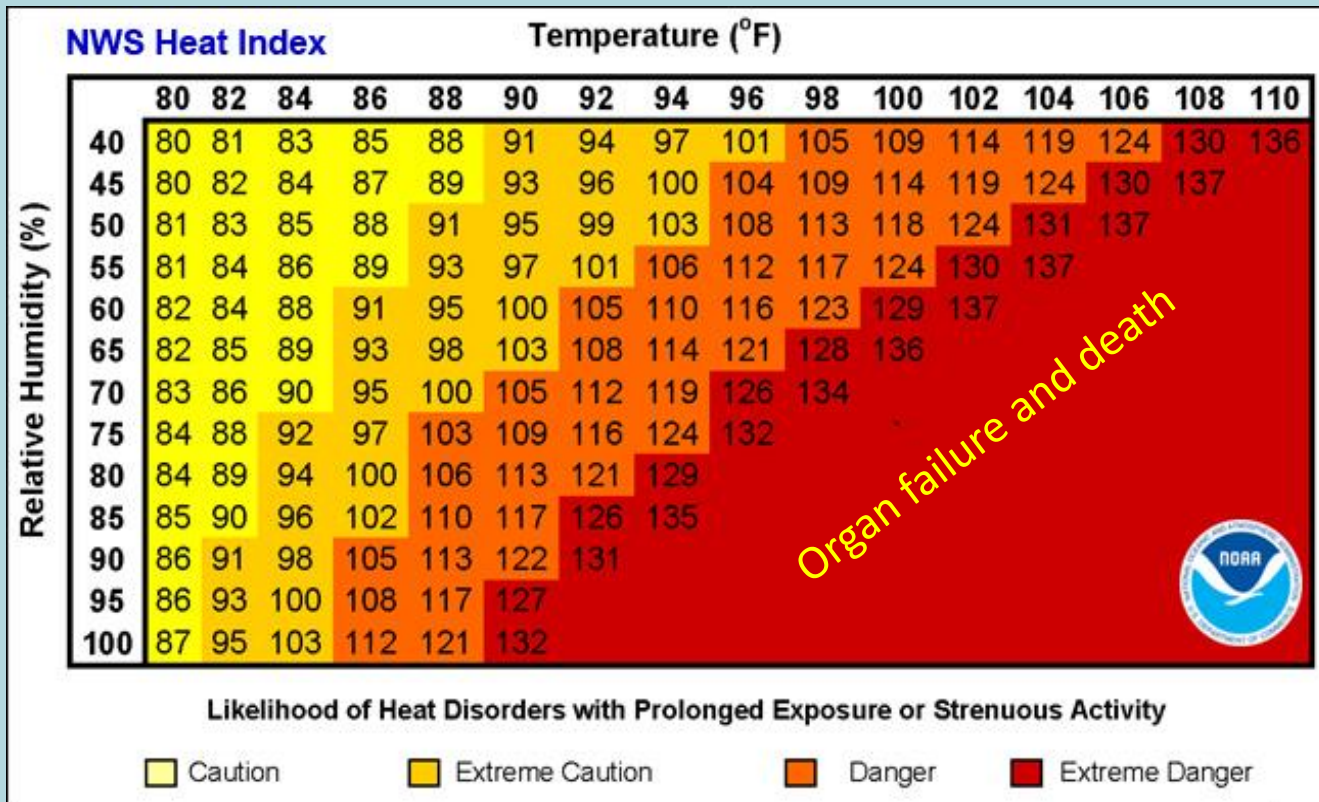
[www.epa.gov/climate-indicators](http://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators)





# Heat Stress and “wet-bulb” temperatures: high temperatures with high humidity

*Toward the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, if current trends continue, projected effects are for **more scorching summers**:*



- Indianapolis would experience more than 80 days per summer with highs over 90°F and almost a month of days per summer over 100°F.
- **Minneapolis-St. Paul** would experience almost 70 days per summer with highs over 90°F and almost a month of days per summer over 100°F

Union of Concerned Scientists  
<https://ucsusa.org/mwclimate>



## Who are most at risk?

- Outdoor workers
- Elderly
- Individuals with disabilities
- Pregnant individuals
- Infants and young children

# Extreme heat and maternal health

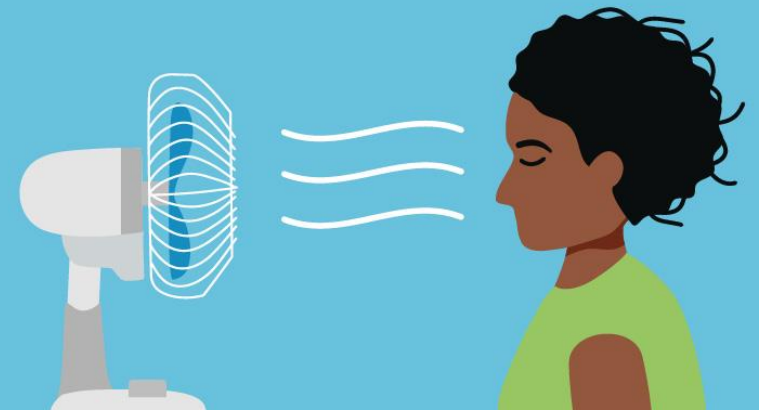
- Maternal exposure to heat is associated with an increased risk of preterm and early term birth, low and decreased birth weight, stillbirth, and harmful newborn stress.
- Preterm births increased by 16% during heat waves.
- For each additional day a pregnant person spends in extreme heat during the second trimester, the odds of hospitalization increase by almost 5%.



## Staying cool during extreme heat:

- Long-term preparation:
  - Weatherize your home
  - Reduce heat-holding surfaces
  - Add trees and plants around home
- Immediate term:
  - Stay hydrated
  - Fans and A/C
  - Close the curtains to keep interior cooler
- Go to community cooling shelters

**BEAT THE HEAT  
COOLING  
SHELTERS**



# What can Zontians do?

- *Get the facts:*
  - Who are the vulnerable in your community and what are their needs?
  - Where are the public cooling shelters? Who runs them and can we help?
  - What is available for women and children?
  - Is it a safe space for women and children?
- *Advocacy:* Raise awareness –
  - How to stay cool
  - Cooling shelters – where they are, hours open, level of need, etc.
- *Service:*
  - Provide resources to women and children to stay cool or while at cooling shelters
  - Volunteer to help out at cooling shelters
  - Provide or arrange for transportation for individuals in need

Interactive Activity  
when we get back

# 5-minute break



Tell us...  
What has  
surprised you  
about climate  
and gender?

Julie shares her experience about sustainable cities in the Western region of the U.S.

# Julie's story



# 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

**Safe and Affordable housing**

**Inclusive and Sustainable Urbanization**

**Reduce the Adverse Effects of Natural Disasters**

**Provide Access to Safe and Inclusive Green and Public Spaces**

**Protect the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage**

**Reduce the Environmental Impact of Cities**

**Strong National and Regional Development Planning**



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# How does Sustainability Effect Women + Girls



Improved  
Health Status

Equitable  
distribution of  
resources

Reduced  
discrimination

Increased  
safety

More female  
leaders and  
decision makers

More job and  
educational  
opportunities

# Gender-Equal Sustainable Communities

Advocate

Advocate for and promote women and girls in leadership and decision-making

Support

Support women led small farm ownership that maintain sustainable practices

Advocate

Advocate for supportive unpaid care at the state or regional level to receive paid family leave and flexible working arrangements

Support

Support women and girl owned businesses

# Gender-Equal Sustainable Communities





# Snapshot of a Sustainable City, USA

## Fort Collins, Colorado

### Sustainability focus:

Clean Air, Clean Water, Less Greenhouse gasses\*

*\*renewable energy, scheduling the closing of the last remaining coal plant, rebates for energy saving home goods like lawn mowers, growing number of EV car charging stations*

### Gender-equality:

The city takes women in leadership seriously...let's look at the numbers



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC

# Fort Collins, Colorado

## Percentage of Women in Leadership roles in the City



- 50% - Elected Mayors of Fort Collins over last 8 years
- 83% - City Council Members
- 50% - Fort Collins Sustainability Group Steering Committee
- 50% - Fort Collins Transportation Board
- 40% - School Board and
- 100% - Support staff for School Board

## Percentage of Women in Leadership roles in the County



*Laramie County Board of Commissioners  
Northern Colorado – including Fort Collins*

75% - County Board of Commissioners

40% - County Elected Officials

75% - Office of County Managers

66% - Office of Public Safety

## Fort Collins Laramie County, Colorado



County Landfill with a solar panel farm in the background

## Recycling & Advocacy:

### Ask questions

1. Do they take electronics in order to remove and recycle minerals to offset mining?
2. Are they using the land wisely?
3. How is the location affecting women and girls in the area?
  1. Methane gas release
  2. Dangerous substances leaking into the soil
  3. Air pollution
  4. Noise pollution





# The Climate Change & Gender Equality connection

Existing inequalities disproportionally increase vulnerability for women/girls as a result of climate change

HOW?

5

## GENDER EQUALITY

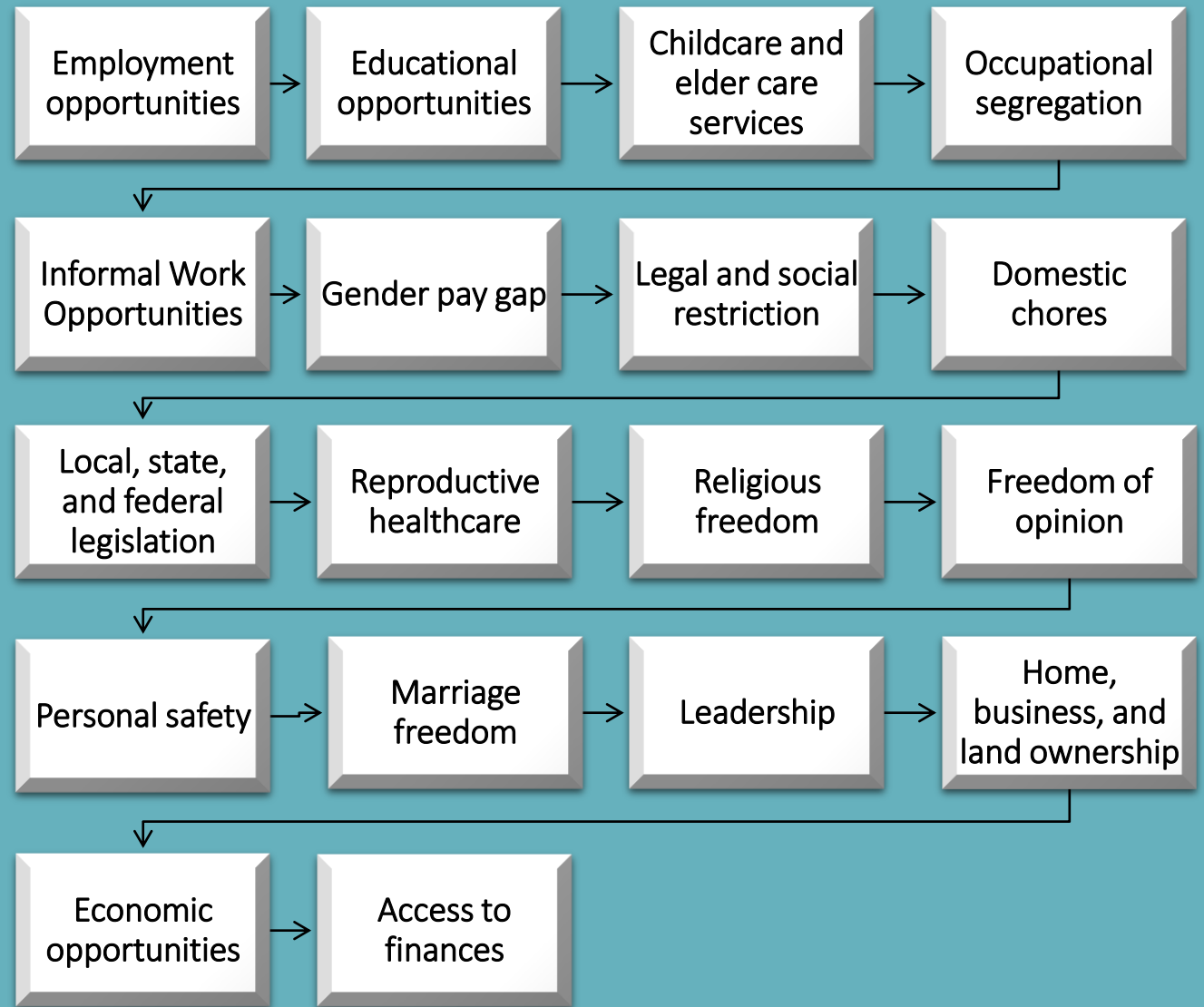
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Gender inequalities worsen with climate change

Let's look at examples

# Gender Inequalities





Increases displacement  
due to loss of home, belongings,  
family income, pets...

Home, business, and  
land ownership

Access to finances

Economic  
opportunities

Personal safety

Decreases  
educational and  
economic  
opportunities for  
women

Home, business,  
and land  
ownership

Leadership

Employment  
opportunities

Educational  
opportunities



# Increases fatalities among women

Personal safety

Family Insecurity



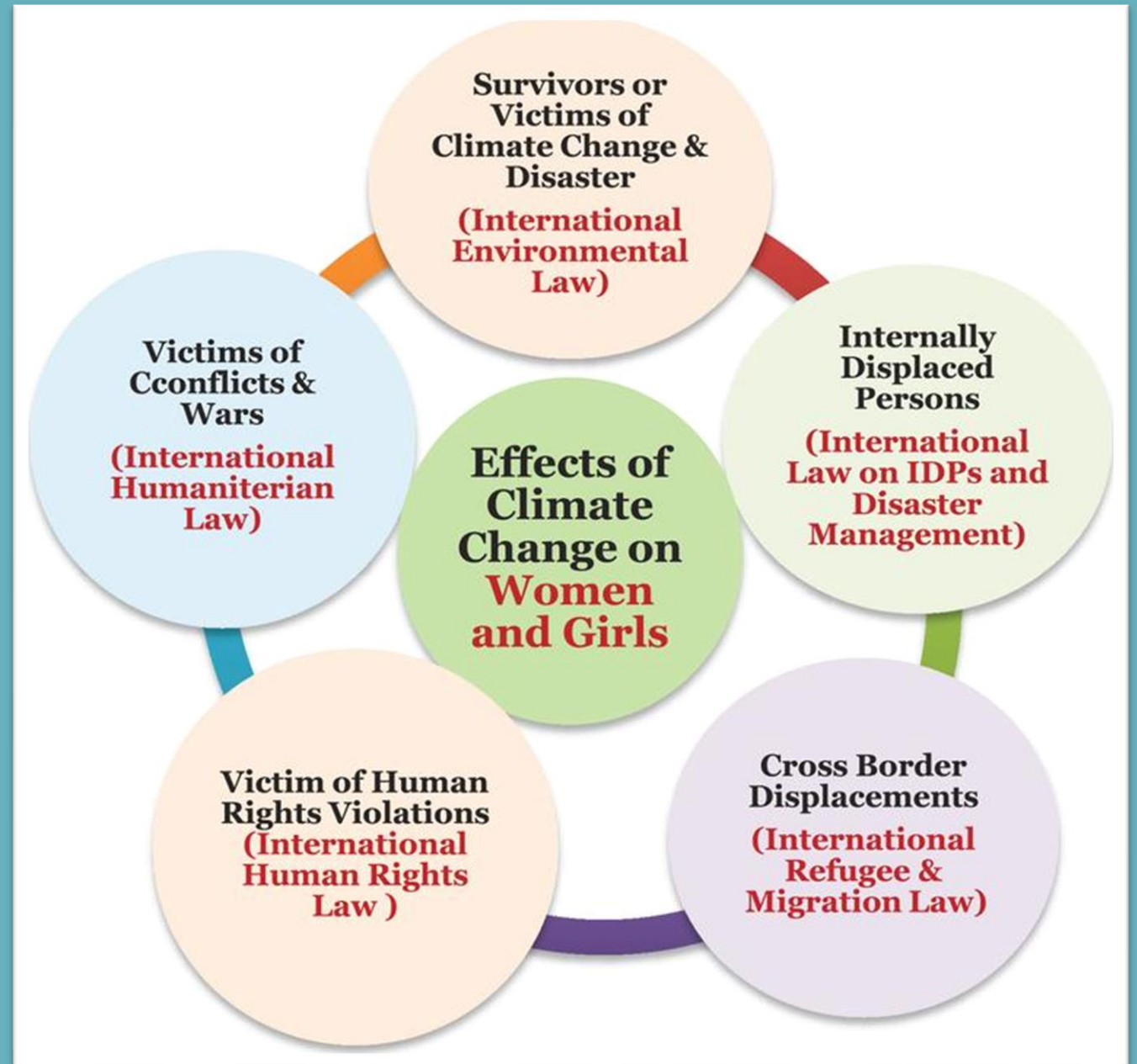
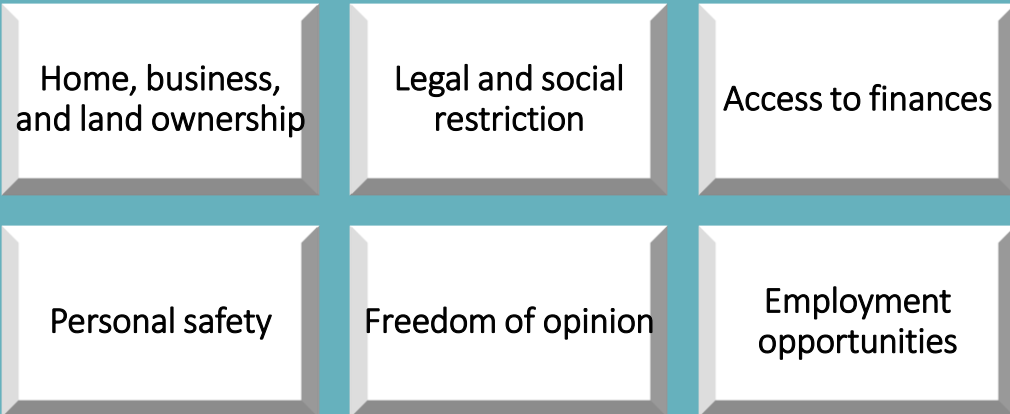
# Marisa's Story

Marisa Mason-Smith, Zontian  
and Human Resources  
Professional in the  
Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

She shares how climate change  
is impacting her island nation.



# Increased violence





# Violence against women and girls (VAWG) and climate change are two of the most pressing global emergencies of our time.



Following Hurricane Katrina, the rate of **RAPE ROSE 53 TIMES** the baseline rate in Mississippi for that year among women displaced to trailer parks.



Between 2016 & 2019 **1,698 ACTS OF VIOLENCE** were recorded in Mexico and Central America against women environmental human rights defenders.



In Ethiopia there was an increase in girls **SOLD INTO EARLY MARRIAGE** in exchange for livestock to help families cope with the impacts of prolonged droughts.



Nepal witnessed an **INCREASE IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING** from an estimated 3,000–5,000 annually in 1990 to 12,000–20,000 per year after the earthquake.



In Vanuatu, after two tropical cyclones in 2011, there was a **300% INCREASE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** cases reported to the Tanna Women's Counselling Centre.



Personal safety

Legal and social restriction

Access to finances

Employment opportunities

# Increased violence in evacuation shelters

Legal and social restriction

Home, business, and land ownership

Personal safety

Access to finances

Employment opportunities

Childcare and elder care services



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# Increased Domestic Violence

Access to finances

Legal and social restriction

Childcare and elder care services

Personal safety

Home, business, and land ownership

## Human Trafficking



Child abduction



Human cage



Forced prostitution



Forced labor



Forced marriage



Organ theft



Selling baby



Forced child beggar



Trafficking boat

# Increases incidences of human trafficking

Personal safety

Legal and social restriction

Reproductive healthcare

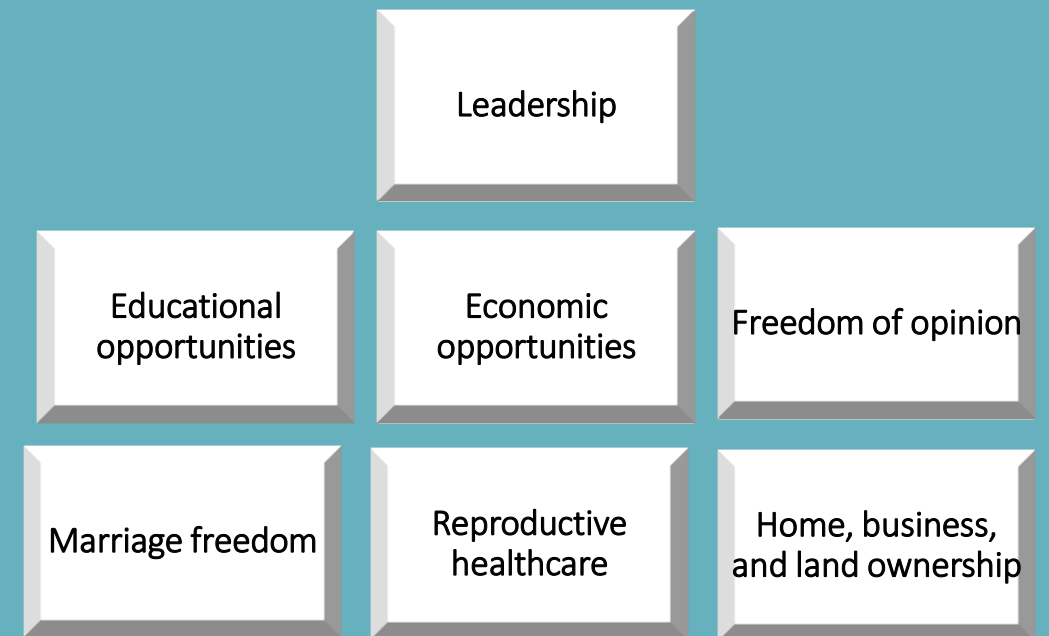
Leadership

Freedom of opinion

Access to finances



# Increase in Child Marriages



Information about  
the work of the USA  
caucus and climate  
change in the  
eastern states

# Bobbee's Story

# Boston, MA

On January 4th, 2018 a bomb cyclone (also known as Winter Storm Grayson) caused historic-level flooding across Boston. This was the highest the water in Boston Harbor has ever gotten.

As sea level creeps higher, the Seaport and some other areas of Boston could see daily tidal flooding by mid-century, As sea level rises, so does high tide. When storms hit at high tide, the combination of storm surge and high tide is a storm tide.

NOAA predicts that by 2050, Boston could see between 50 and 70 days of high-tide flooding.





## Hurricane Ida, 9/1/2021

**In NY and NJ at least 46 people were killed, many of them in basement apartments, in a storm caused by the remnants of a hurricane that struck New Orleans days earlier.**

**In Elizabeth, N.J., water from the Elizabeth River surged 8 to 10 feet, flooding homes and carrying raw sewage, forcing the evacuation of all 600 residents of the Oaks at Westminster apartment complex, where at least four people died.**

**Philadelphia was inundated by floodwaters**





# Impact of Hurricane Ida in New York City

**Subways closed as some flooded from above**

**Rail lines closed due to damage**

**Rain fell at 3.15 inches per hour at peak**

**Power outages for 80,000+ people**

**People died mostly in basement apartments**

**1100+ properties damaged by the storm**

# Zonta USA Caucus and Gender Equal Climate Action

- **13 Districts working together on Advocacy**
- **Through 6 Committees: ERA, VAW, CM, Health, Leadership, GECA**
- **ZI published Statement on Climate Change and Gender Equality**
- **GECA Committee established 9/21 following ZI Webinar featuring D23's Zonta Says Now Project**

# Zonta USA Caucus and Gender Equal Climate Action

- **GECA hosts Zonta Says Now USA THINK TANKS**
- **Topics to Date: Water and Drought, Intersection of Climate Change and DV, Food Insecurity, Disaster Preparedness**
- **Open to all US Zontians: Hear Experts, Learn, Teach, Brainstorm advocacy, club and individual actions**



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Say NO to Violence

16 Days of  
Advocacy

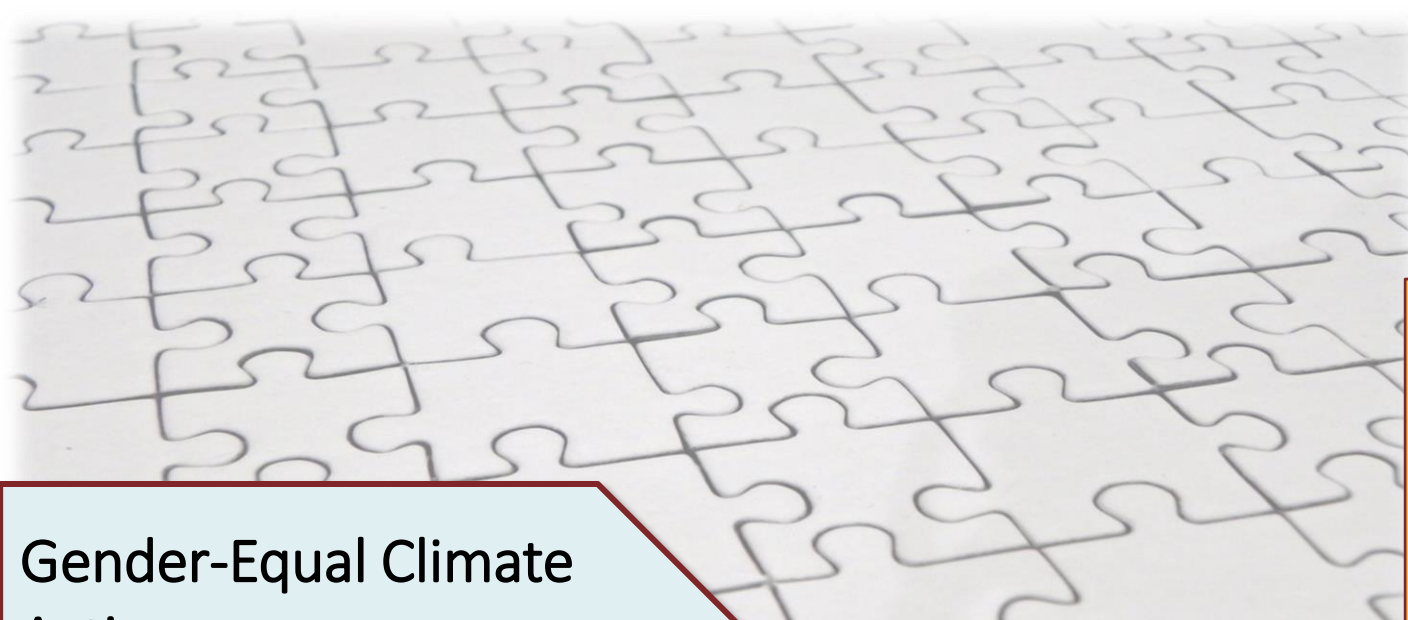
Education via Scholarship:  
*Women in STEM*  
*Women in Business*  
*Women in Public Affairs*  
*Amelia Earhart Fellowship*

International Women's Day

ADVOCACY

End  
Child  
Marriage

How can we  
connect what we do  
with gender-equal  
climate action?



**Gender-Equal Climate Action**

- Narrows the Gender Gap
- Reduces Violence
- Improves the Environment

**ADVOCACY**

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**Say NO to Violence**  
*Education via scholarship.*

**16 Days of Advocacy**  
*Amelia Earhart Fellowship*

**End Child Marriage**

**International Women's Day**

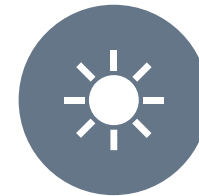
# Advocacy Actions Your Club Can Take



Clubs can get involved at the community, state and national level



Subscribing to Zonta USA Caucus Fast Action Friday



Climate Pledge



Attend Think Tank presentations

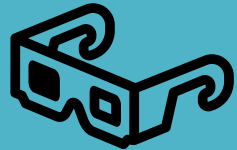


Gather Resources



Join Us tomorrow –  
Advocacy Workshop ‘What’s Zonta Got To Do With It?’

# Zonta Resources



A Virtual tour

- **Zonta.org NEW!**
  - [Zonta Says NOW webpage](#)
- **Zonta USA Caucus Zonta Says NOW**
  - [website](#)





# Building A Better World For Women and Girls

- Hope is the number one feeling that pulls women and girls together to make a difference
- Action can help you rise and lift you up when engaged in a cause
- Women in leadership and decision making have proven to improve climate conditions through policy making worldwide
- Women and girls are the ones who care for the young and elderly, the home, and put food on the table – we are the game changers!
- Women make up 50.5% of the U.S. population – it's time to use our voices to correct what we can
- Women and girls show a great desire to protect our loved ones, our homes, nature, agriculture, water, and our planet (which is home to us all)



Questions?  
Comments?



# Join Us Tomorrow

Advocacy Workshop:

‘What’s Zonta Got to do with it?’



**ZONTA**  
**INTERNATIONAL**

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**USA CAUCUS**

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**EMPOWERING WOMEN**  
**THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY**

# Coming this fall

NEW Zonta USA Gender  
Equal Climate Committee  
Think Tank presentations



**ZONTA**  
**INTERNATIONAL**

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**USA CAUCUS**

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**EMPOWERING WOMEN**  
**THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY**



# Thank You for Attending



## NAIDM 2023