



Calgary

Low Carbon Emissions (RCP4.5)

Climate Variable	Season	1981–2010 (Baseline)	2021–2050			2051–2080		
			L	M	H	L	M	H
Mean Temperature	Annual	4.2 °C	5.1 °C	5.6 °C	6.3 °C	6.3 °C	6.7 °C	7.1 °C
	Summer	15.3 °C	16.2 °C	16.9 °C	17.4 °C	17.6 °C	18.0 °C	18.3 °C
	Winter	-7.4 °C	-6.9 °C	-6.0 °C	-4.8 °C	-5.4 °C	-4.6 °C	-3.7 °C
Precipitation	Annual	426.4 mm	419.4 mm	441.3 mm	468.6 mm	404.3 mm	442.2 mm	477.2 mm
	Summer	202.1 mm	176.4 mm	194.1 mm	215.2 mm	166.8 mm	185.2 mm	206.9 mm
	Winter	47.6 mm	46.1 mm	52.2 mm	58.4 mm	48.1 mm	55.0 mm	60.1 mm
Days ≥ 30 °C	Annual	3.9 days	4.0 days	9.0 days	12.0 days	11.0 days	15.4 days	20.0 days
Nights ≥ 20 °C	Annual	0.0 days	0.0 days	0.0 days	0.0 days	0.0 days	0.1 days	0.0 days
Days ≤ -30 °C	Annual	2.4 days	0.0 days	0.4 days	2.0 days	0.0 days	0.3 days	2.0 days
Frost-Free Period	Annual	117.5 days	119.0 days	131.8 days	145.0 days	126.0 days	144.5 days	159.0 days
5 °C Degree Days	Annual	1433.0	1598.4	1712.5	1803.2	1837.8	1918.4	1998.8
10 °C Degree Days	Annual	639.2	742.7	835.6	924.5	908.7	993.2	1065.4
Freeze-Thaw Cycles	Annual	113.8 cycles	87.0 cycles	98.0 cycles	109.0 cycles	84.0 cycles	95.9 cycles	105.0 cycles
Max 1-day Precip Total	Annual	62.3 mm	50.2 mm	69.3 mm	96.3 mm	39.2 mm	62.0 mm	88.3 mm
Max 3-day Precip Total	Annual	136.9 mm	111.8 mm	152.0 mm	195.3 mm	85.8 mm	141.4 mm	197.5 mm

High Carbon Emissions (RCP8.5)

Climate Variable	Season	1981–2010 (Baseline)	2021–2050			2051–2080		
			L	M	H	L	M	H
Mean Temperature	Annual	4.1 °C	5.4 °C	6.0 °C	6.6 °C	7.1 °C	7.8 °C	8.9 °C
	Summer	15.3 °C	16.5 °C	17.2 °C	17.9 °C	18.6 °C	19.5 °C	20.5 °C
	Winter	-7.5 °C	-6.4 °C	-5.3 °C	-4.1 °C	-5.5 °C	-3.7 °C	-2.5 °C
Precipitation	Annual	427.2 mm	418.5 mm	441.6 mm	462.7 mm	401.1 mm	447.4 mm	488.1 mm
	Summer	202.0 mm	174.7 mm	192.6 mm	212.0 mm	152.3 mm	183.9 mm	215.1 mm
	Winter	47.5 mm	44.4 mm	50.8 mm	59.4 mm	49.1 mm	56.8 mm	63.9 mm
Days ≥ 30 °C	Annual	4.0 days	6.0 days	10.4 days	14.0 days	16.0 days	27.7 days	39.0 days
Nights ≥ 20 °C	Annual	0.0 days	0.0 days	0.0 days	0.0 days	0.0 days	0.3 days	1.0 days
Days ≤ -30 °C	Annual	2.6 days	0.0 days	0.2 days	1.0 days	0.0 days	0.2 days	1.0 days
Frost-Free Period	Annual	118.3 days	119.0 days	134.4 days	146.0 days	141.0 days	158.8 days	175.0 days
5 °C Degree Days	Annual	1433.3	1649.1	1771.6	1905.3	2032.4	2195.1	2407.5
10 °C Degree Days	Annual	640.3	778.2	881.6	993.3	1064.4	1209.5	1371.8
Freeze-Thaw Cycles	Annual	113.6 cycles	88.0 cycles	97.8 cycles	107.0 cycles	76.0 cycles	86.7 cycles	101.0 cycles
Max 1-day Precip Total	Annual	60.1 mm	45.5 mm	66.4 mm	87.0 mm	46.0 mm	69.7 mm	107.1 mm
Max 3-day Precip Total	Annual	130.7 mm	103.4 mm	144.7 mm	191.0 mm	96.2 mm	156.9 mm	239.8 mm

Where did this data come from?

Global Climate Models (GCMs) are used to depict how the climate is likely to change in the future. Since no one climate model can be considered 'correct', it is important to use many GCMs to capture a range of possible conditions. The GCM data we used were obtained from the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC). PCIC collected temperature and precipitation data produced by 12 different models and used advanced statistical techniques to create high-resolution (daily, 10km) versions of the data for all of Canada (for more information visit pacificclimate.org).

What is the difference between the 'Low' and 'High' Carbon emission scenarios?

One of the most important inputs into GCM simulations of the future climate is the expected concentration of greenhouse gases (GHGs; especially carbon dioxide) in the atmosphere as a result of human activity. In the scientific literature these future GHG concentrations are used to calculate Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs). The High Carbon scenario (RCP8.5) assumes that we continue to emit very large amounts of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels; the Low Carbon scenario (RCP4.5) assumes that drastic reductions of emissions in the coming decades will stabilize the concentration of GHGs in the atmosphere by the end of this century. We did not use RCP2.6, an even lower emissions scenario.

How were the Low, Mean, and High values calculated?

For a variety of climate variables, we used the projected values from the 12 models to calculate an *ensemble* (average) value for each year. The ensemble values for the 2021-2050 and 2051-2080 periods were used to calculate the 'M', or mean, values. To portray the range of values within the 30-year periods, we calculated the 10th and 90th percentiles; 10% of the annual values are lower than the 'L' values and 10% of the annual values are higher than the 'H' values. For comparative purposes, we also calculated ensembles for the baseline period of 1981-2010 (as simulated by the models).

Some definitions

Frost-Free Period: number of consecutive days without freezing temperatures

5 °C Degree Days: cumulative number of degrees greater than 5 °C (using daily mean temperatures)

Freeze-Thaw Cycles: number of days with maximum temperature > 0 °C and minimum temperature < -1 °C



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