

Northern hemisphere breaks record for hottest ever summer

- **Past three months were 1.17C above 20th-century average**
- **2020 on track to be one of five warmest years, Noaa finds**

A policeman wipes sweat from his forehead while on duty in the summer heat in front of a Torii gate at the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, Japan, in August. Photograph: Kimimasa Mayama/EPA

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This summer was the hottest ever recorded in the northern hemisphere, according to US government scientists.



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June, July and August were 1.17C (2.11F) above the 20th-century average, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Noaa).

The **new record** surpassed the summers of 2016 and 2019. Last month was also the second-hottest August ever recorded for the globe. The numbers put 2020 on track to be one of the five warmest years, according to NOAA.

United Nations officials have warned that many countries are not prepared to advance climate ambitions, while the US faces a presidential election that will **decide** whether it will contribute to such global efforts or hinder them.

With aggressive federal action, the US could cut its climate pollution almost in half by 2030 compared with 2005, according to the latest report from **America's Pledge**, a group of private- and public-sector leaders.

Even if Donald Trump wins re-election and largely ignores climate change, states, cities and businesses could still cut emissions by 37% by 2030, the report finds.

The climate crisis is increasingly moving into the spotlight in the US presidential race. The Democratic nominee, Joe Biden, on Monday aggressively targeted Trump in remarks connecting historic wildfires in the western US to human-made climate change.

“If we have four more years of Trump’s climate denial, how many suburbs will be burned in wildfires, how many suburban neighborhoods will have been flooded out, how many suburbs will have been blown away in superstorms?” Biden asked. “If you give a climate arsonist four more years in the White House, why would anyone be surprised if we have more of America ablaze ... when more of America is under water?”

Trump continues to tout fossil fuels. His administration recently gave a researcher who rejects climate science a **top post** at NOAA, the agency that provided the new data.

This summer was particularly scorching in some regions, demonstrating how human-fueled climate change is hitting parts of the world harder and faster than others.

The heat was at least 2C (3.6F) above the average in northern Russia and the south-western and north-eastern US. In northern Asia, temperatures reached

more than 3C (5.4F) above average. Europe, Asia and the Caribbean saw their warmest January through August yet. South America saw its second warmest.

The southern hemisphere, which experiences winter when the northern hemisphere has its summer, had its third warmest season yet.