

Arctic Report Card: *Update for 2014*

Tracking recent environmental changes

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Tundra Greenness

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Polar Bears

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Climate, Herbivores & Ecosystem Function

Depicting Arctic Change

What's new in 2014?

Rising air and sea temperatures continue to trigger changes in the Arctic. *The Arctic is warming at twice the rate of anywhere else on Earth.*

However, natural variation remains, such as the slight increase in March 2014 sea ice thickness and only a slight decrease in total mass of the Greenland ice sheet in summer 2014.

Highlights

The warming Arctic atmosphere was strongly connected to lower latitudes in early 2014 causing cold air outbreaks into the eastern USA and warm air intrusions into Alaska and northern Europe.

Snow cover extent in April 2014 in Eurasia was the lowest since 1967 and **sea ice extent** in September was the 6th lowest since 1979.

Polar bears numbers in western Hudson Bay and the southern Beaufort Sea are decreasing in connection with a decrease in the availability of sea ice.

The tundra is "browning" as the length of the growing season is decreasing in Eurasia, but maximum tundra greenness and biomass are increasing across the Arctic.

Sea surface temperatures and primary production are increasing as the sea ice retreats throughout the Arctic Ocean.

On the Greenland ice sheet nearly 40% of the surface experienced melting conditions in summer 2014 and the albedo (reflectivity) reached a new record low value in August.

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