

Turning the tides

What are 'climate change' and 'global warming'?

'Global warming' is an average increase in the Earth's temperature: 'Climate change' could mean temperatures fall as well as rise.

To state that the climate has changed we need to look at long term records of air temperature, sea temperature, rainfall and wind speed. The last few years have recorded the wettest / driest / coldest season or month since weather data began to be recorded.

What could happen in Scotland if the climate changes?

If the temperature were to rise or fall and the amount of rainfall changed, we would see lots of changes to where plants could grow and where animals and people could live.

In the future, floods and droughts might become more common, so new flood defences could need to be built or farmers might need extra water for their crops to help them grow.

Energy use patterns could change if people have to keep their heating on longer in colder winters, or we might all need to use air conditioning in the summer.

How would that affect the Aberdeen area?

Because the beach at Aberdeen is at sea level, as is much of the town, lots of places in the City could end up under water. Low lying farmland in an around Aberdeen would be also be flooded, so we would have to transport more food into the local area.

If you follow the River Dee or the River Don upstream, rises in water level would even flood towns far inland.