



## Climate Change in New York State

New York State is warming. Average winter temperatures are 4.4°F higher today than in the 1970s. Rain and snowfall are changing, too. Heavy rainfalls have become more common, increasing by more than 70% across the Northeast U.S. since the 1950s. Winter snow cover is decreasing.

## What are Invasive Species?

Invasive species are plants and animals that are not currently native to New York's ecosystems and cause harm to the economy, environment, or human health.



## Life Responds to a Changing Climate

Spring is arriving earlier in New York. This means longer growing seasons, which can increase the number of insect generations each year. Some invasive plants such as multiflora rose bloom earlier in the spring than many native species, so the invasives get a jump start on growth.

## Will Warmer Winters Help Insects Overwinter Here?

It depends. For parts of New York that don't have much winter snow cover now, insects like the introduced hemlock wooly adelgid that overwinter above ground may be more likely to survive. In regions with more snow cover, insects may struggle as winter snow cover decreases and they lose insulation from the snow.



## What Can I Do?

Help reduce warming by using less energy and fewer fossil fuels. Energy production through burning fossil fuels is the main source of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which warms the planet.

Help with the most cost-effective way of managing invasive species: don't introduce them in the first place. Never move firewood from a region with infestations of Emerald ash borer or Asian long-horned beetle, because you could inadvertently introduce these tree-killing pests. Before buying and relocating plants or animals, check the New York State Regulated and Prohibited Invasive Species list.

You can help with monitoring invasive species by observing them and reporting observations to sites like [iMapInvasives.org](http://iMapInvasives.org). Monitoring is important because if we know where invasive species are found and where they are moving, experts can come up with better plans to manage them.