

SCOTTISH CLIMATE UPDATE Embargoed Until: 00:01hrs 13th March 2010

One of a series of Climate Updates from WWF Scotland based on data from the Met Office.

FEBRUARY 2010

TOP LINE: February 2010 was 12th coolest February in the records going back to 1914
 This winter was officially the second coldest on record, only 1963 was colder

Measure	Feb 2010	Comparison*	Rating	Records start
Temperature	0.3°C	-2.3°C	--	1914
Rainfall	82.2mm	-33%	-	1914
Sunshine	67.9hrs	+12%	+	1929

*compared to 1971-2000 averages, +++ exceptionally above average; ++ well above average; + above average;

~ close to average; - below average; -- well below average

COMMENT:

Dr Sam Gardner, Climate Policy Officer for WWF Scotland, said:

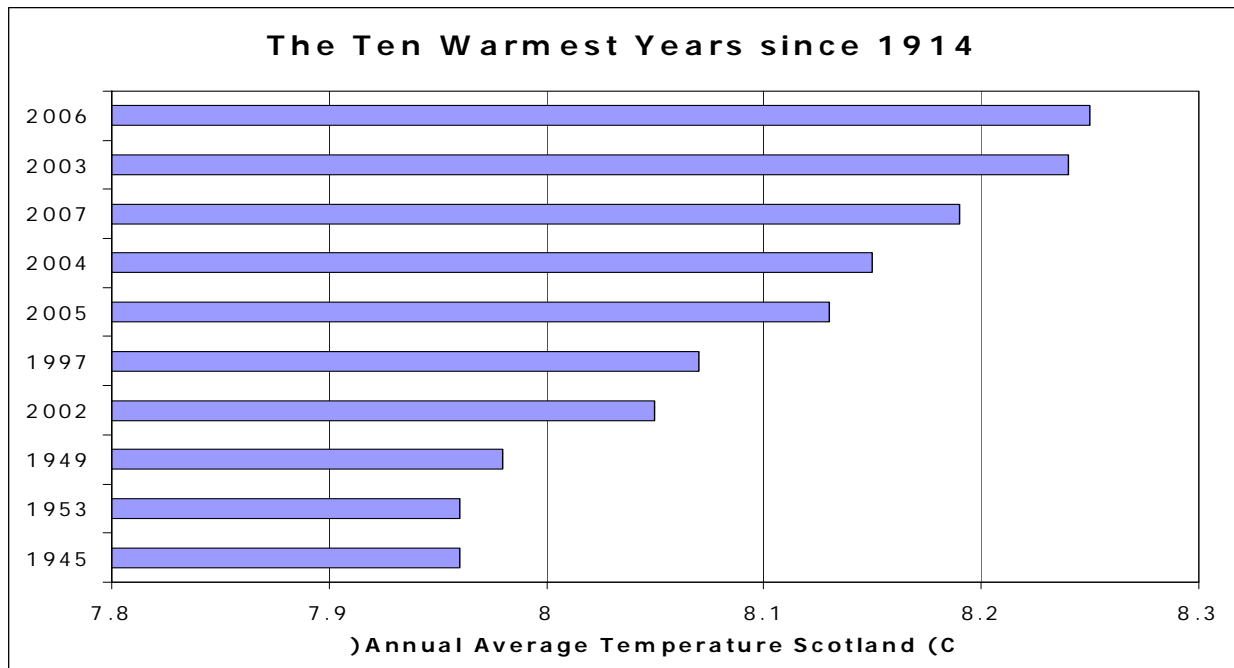
“February continued the cold and snowy spell and this winter turned out to be second only to 1963 for its low average temperature. While we shivered the Arctic and parts of south-east Asia were seeing unusually high temperatures.

“In February the UK Committee on Climate Change confirmed that Scotland’s 42 per cent target is the right place to be aiming and from transport to energy policy we’ll be looking to make sure the Government are getting on with delivering on emissions reductions.

“We are seeing record sign up for WWF’s Earth Hour, our annual global climate change action on Saturday 27 March at 8.30pm. In Scotland, 25 of the 32 local authorities have already committed to switching off non essential lights in buildings and on local monuments. They will join over 1,100 cities and towns in over 100 countries in switching off their lights for 60 minutes, sending a clear message to world leaders that we need urgent action on climate change.”

THE YEAR SO FAR

February was the 12th coldest ever recorded and the winter was the second coldest ever. January was very cold but was also the 4th sunniest January in Scotland according to the records which began in 1929. It was particularly sunny in the west.



WWF's Earth Hour lights-out initiative began in Sydney, Australia in 2007 as an awareness-raising exercise. By 2009 3,000 cities and towns in more than 80 countries got involved with lights going out in 66 national capitals and 9 of the 10 most populated metropolises on the planet. Over 800 of the world's most iconic landmarks also went dark last year including the Sydney Opera House, the Eiffel Tower and the Pyramids of Giza. Here in Scotland, 19 local authorities, 200 schools and over one hundred businesses and organisations joined in by switching their lights off for one hour in a graphic demonstration of support for determined international action on climate change. Some of Scotland's most iconic landmarks went dark including Edinburgh Castle, the Forth Bridge, Eilean Donan Castle, Glasgow's Clyde Arc (Squinty Bridge) and the Scottish Parliament.

Footage of what happened last year

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FclcMfzjwug>