

SCOTTISH CLIMATE UPDATE Embargoed Until: 00:01hrs 14th Nov 2009

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

OCTOBER 2009

TOP LINE: October was a degree warmer than the long-term average. It was very wet in the North-East of Scotland. 2009 could be the 6th warmest year ever recorded

Measure	Oct 2009	Comparison*	Rating	Records start
Temperature	8.9°C	1.0°C	+	1914
Rainfall	162.5mm	-0.2%	~	1914
Sunshine	77.3hrs	+1.8%	~	1929

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

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

COMMENT:

2009 is a crucial year for climate change with world leaders meeting in Copenhagen in December to agree a new international climate deal that will come into force when the first phase of the Kyoto treaty expires in 2012. The new Scottish Climate Change Act has set a strong international example of what is possible.

Dr Sam Gardner, Climate Change Policy Officer at WWF Scotland said:

“The North East had heavy rainfall again and the recent floods show a glimpse of the kind of future we need to try to avoid. The predictions are that rainfall will increase by between 12 per cent and 21 per cent across Scotland by the 2080s if we don’t get a good deal on reducing emissions at Copenhagen.

“October was a degree warmer than the average and every month in 2009 has been warmer than the long-term average. If the last two months of the year follows the pattern so far, 2009 would end up as the 6th warmest and 3rd sunniest year on record.

“Last weekend the finance ministers of the G20 countries met in St. Andrews. We wanted to see solid proposals on how the money would be raised, managed and distributed and an indication of how soon the countries most vulnerable to climate change will receive assistance. The G20 has failed to deliver and the real work will now have to be done at Copenhagen.

“We are helping organise Scotland’s biggest ever demonstration on climate change on Saturday 5th December in Glasgow. This march will be one of many events around the world which will demonstrate to world leaders that we want them to get a good result in Copenhagen.”

THE YEAR SO FAR

October was a degree warmer than usual. It had average rainfall across Scotland but the North East was 50% wetter than usual. September was more than a degree warmer than the average. The month had lower than average rainfall but this conceals very heavy rain early in the month which caused floods in Elgin, Aberdeenshire and the Borders. 123.6mm (5 inches) of rain over 24 hours was recorded at Fochabers. August was the 3rd wettest August ever recorded and the joint wettest ever (with August 1985) in the west of Scotland. The average temperature was more than 0.5°C above the long-term average. The summer of 2009 was the 4th wettest summer ever, following 1985, 1948 and 1956. July was the 5th wettest July in the east of Scotland. June 2009 was the 6th sunniest June ever recorded and finished with a very warm spell. May 2009 was the 6th wettest and 4th sunniest May ever recorded, and it was also the 9th sunniest month ever recorded, as well as being 0.6°C warmer than average. April was the 3rd warmest April in the records which go back to 1914 and it was also sunnier than average. March was the 5th sunniest ever recorded and a full degree warmer than the long-term average. The east of Scotland was 1.6° warmer than the average. The start of February was cold but temperatures picked up to allow the month to finish with an average temperature above the long-term average. January was the 3rd sunniest January in Scotland according to the records which began in 1929. Although it was cooler than in recent years it was still 0.1°C warmer than the long-term average.

