

# UK Climate Projections Project

## Newsletter - November 2018

Welcome to the last UKCP18 newsletter before launch. In this edition we'll bring you up to date with all the news and developments from the last few months and we'll look forward to launch, what it means for you and how you can access all the data and information that UKCP18 has to offer.

But don't worry, this isn't the end of the story. We'll let you know what will be happening after launch and how users can continue to keep in touch.

Deborah Owens, Head of Climate at Defra introduces this November edition of the UKCP18 Newsletter. In our regular 'Meet the Scientist' feature, Fai Fung, UKCP Climate Services Manager at the Met Office talks about his role in helping to ensure that UKCP18 products and services are useful and usable to the UKCP18 audience and how he and his team will support users after the launch later this month.

Harriet Orr from the Environment Agency and Chair of the Non-Government User Group provides this edition's 'User View'. She looks at the role of NGUG in UKCP18 data. Plus there is all the latest project news.

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As always [your feedback](#) is welcome, please send your thoughts, comments and ideas.

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## Editorial

### Deborah Owens - Head of Climate, Defra

I am Deborah Owens, chair of the Joint Project Team for UKCP18 and Head of Defra's Climate team. I'm a relative new-comer to the project, having only joined last summer; but I have learnt a lot in that time as I've got more involved in the UKCP18 project. I've been really impressed with the dedication and enthusiasm shown by everyone working on the project. And with the launch just around the corner, I wanted to reflect on all the hard work and collaboration that has got us to this point.

As chair of the Joint Project Team, which represents the partnership that delivers these projections, I have the pleasure of working with some very talented people, who have all collaborated towards a common goal of delivering the best possible update to the UK Climate Projections.

The User Groups have been vital in ensuring the projections are designed with user needs at their heart. The Peer Review Panel have, from the very beginning, provided important scrutiny and challenge which has helped to produce something we hope is both user-friendly and represents reliable cutting edge science. The Governance Board, chaired by Defra Chief Scientist Prof Ian Boyd, has provided important strategic oversight to the project, helping us to keep the bigger picture in mind as we take this work forward. I also want to acknowledge all the many others who have contributed to making the new projections what they are.



I'm looking forward to the culmination of all this hard work with the launch this month, which in itself is quite a task to co-ordinate! This is not the end though, with the 2.2km high resolution projections coming out next year and then we want to see how the data is actually used after launch. There is still a lot of work to be done but thank you to everyone involved in the project so far, and here's to a successful launch!

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## Meet the Scientist

### Fai Fung - UKCP Climate Services Manager, Met Office

My focus for the past few years has been to ensure that UKCP18 products and services are useful and usable to the audience for UK climate projections. Initially, this meant building on the learning from UKCP09 through user workshops and market research carried out between 2009 and 2015.

Throughout the project, we have also gathered new information from our Government and Non-Government User Groups, collaboration with others in the demonstration projects as well as early testing of multiple prototypes for the web pages and user interface.

In the early stages of the project, we established two user groups, recognising the very different roles that Government and Non-Government users have in climate change mitigation and adaptation. The user groups have met at timely points to inform project decisions and I believe that this input has improved the products greatly. This co-design has resulted in, for example, (i) significant changes in the method, such as providing an additional dataset that describes worlds with 2°C and 4°C warming (ii) changing the format of the data so that it is provided on the widely-used Ordnance Survey's coordinate system and (iii) an enhanced user interface that uses the latest web design.

To ensure that products are relevant and support the users, the climate service team have also carried out scientific analysis on more user-relevant variables, produced user guidance that has been subject to scientific peer review as well as developed the tools to access the knowledge and data (new web pages and user interface). To achieve this, I lead a team with a wide-range of expertise in climate science, user applications and product development. My team has worked alongside UKCP18 science leads and their teams as well as others across the Met Office. The project has also benefited greatly from our close working relationship with the Environment Agency and Committee on Climate Change and our funders Defra and BEIS.

At launch, the point of access will be the UKCP18 web pages on the Met Office website. From there, the web pages have been designed and tested to enable you to access information quickly, depending on what you want to do. For those with limited time, headline messages, infographics and key results will be available. Those who need information to brief others or include in their own reporting can dig deeper into the website to find more detail about the different components of the project, guidance on how to use them and more tailored visualisations. Those more familiar with climate datasets will be taken straight to the UKCP18 User Interface to tailor their own information. The User Interface has been completely redesigned and undergone user experience testing – latest signs are that users do find it intuitive and quick to navigate to the information they need.

In some respects, I see the role of the climate services team starting in earnest after the November launch. We will monitor the use of the UKCP18 and seek feedback to continue to improve and further develop the products and services to support users.



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## The User View

### Harriet Orr, Environment Agency and Chair of Non-Government User Group

I've been using climate science and information to explore changes in the natural environment for over 20 years. Sometimes this has been about detecting climate driven change in ecosystems but more often I've been working with others to try and understand how the systems we need to manage and protect might change in future and in particular to consider what we can do to enhance resilience to change.

During this time the availability of data about climate observations more closely linked to information about what could happen in the future has improved. For many people and organisations who make decisions that are climate sensitive this link with familiar observational information is the way into considering future risks. Gridded data really helps here and the MO state of the UK climate report series is particularly useful.

I've really enjoyed the enthusiasm and focus from members of the NGUG in striving to ensure that wherever possible new projections will enhance the ability of impacts and adaptation specialists to make use of the information. We have all been learning how to improve the experience of users.

The projections give us the most up to date scientific evidence on how the UK climate could change. However, decision makers are often looking for information on how climate change will affect things not provided by the projections such as floods, droughts or changes in water quality for example. Having the User Groups has helped sector representatives prepare for new information and consider how best to use it and to have shared discussions about what further information is needed to support decision making.

After the launch of UKCP18 I'm looking forward to continued cooperation around climate impacts research and supporting communities of practice in using the projections.



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## Project News

### Delivering an Improved UKCP18

Chris Delaney, UX Lead, Met Office



The Met Office has adopted user-centred design methodologies to improve the quality of the solutions applied to customer problems. The process involves understanding the business problem, visualising potential solutions and then testing them with users to gain feedback and implement improvements.

The User Experience (UX) team were approached to provide assistance in testing and improving the UKCP18 data interface. Training was arranged so that the project team could carry out some of the testing themselves.

A number of users from the Government and Non-Government User Groups ran through test scripts during online conferencing sessions, with the UX team documenting the findings.

The findings were discussed with our developers at the Centre for Environmental Data Analysis, who manage the user interface. Developments were prioritised and are now being implemented.

## Peer Review Panel Moderation Meeting

Karen Eagle, Met Office Hadley Centre Climate Programme Project Manager

During this summer the independent UKCP18 Peer Review Panel, chaired by Professor Sir Brian Hoskins, have been reviewing the drafts scientific and guidance documents that have been prepared as part of the project.

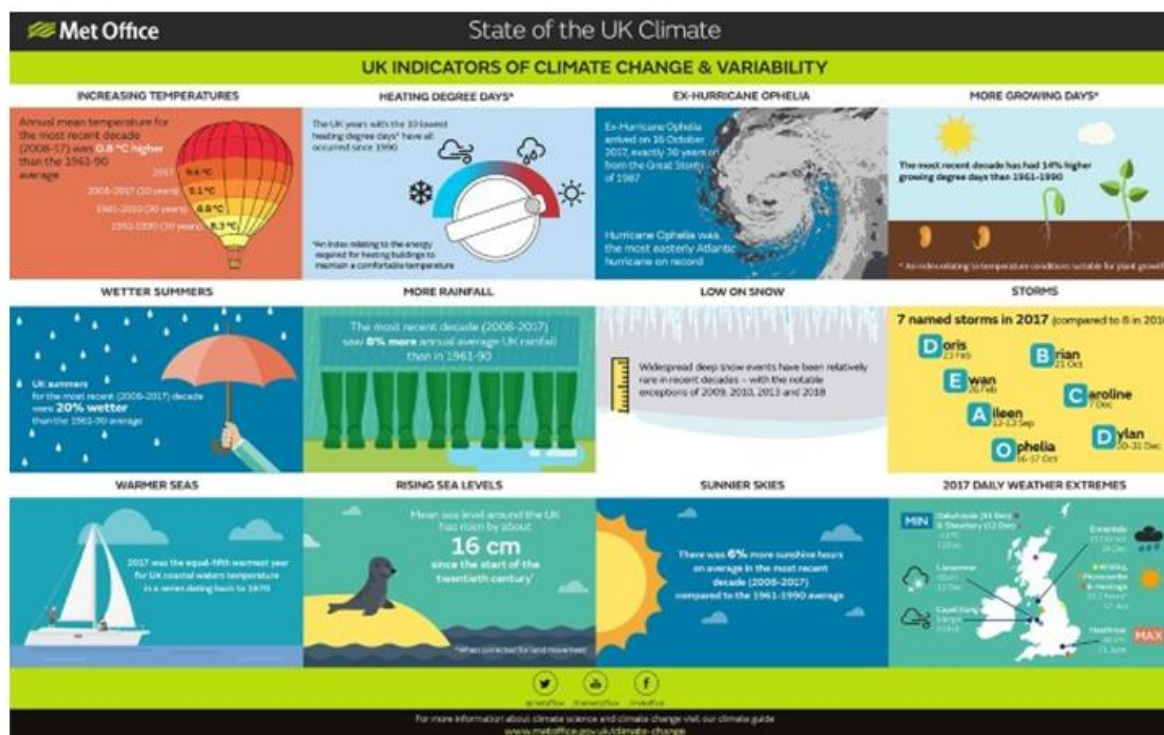
This review culminated in a 3 day workshop at Reading University where the panel met with the Met Office lead scientists and overseen by Defra. The workshop discussed the submitted comments and agreed what will be included during the final stages of drafting before the launch of UKCP18 in November 2018.



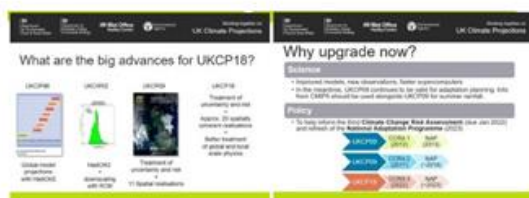
## State of the UK Climate 2017

Karen Eagle, Met Office Hadley Centre Climate Programme Project Manager

The 4th annual State of the UK Climate report was released at the end of July. Containing a summary of UK weather and climate for the calendar year 2017, the report concludes that this was the 5th warmest year on record over UK land. The report can be accessed on the [Met Office Website](#).



## UKCP18 PowerPoint Slide Pack



Along with the guidance material and science reports, available through the UKCP18 web site, users will also have access to a set of PowerPoint slides to help them convey information about the project within their user communities.

## UKCP18 on Twitter



As well as regular news updates through the UKCP18 website, you can also follow progress with the rollout, use and development of the UK Climate Projections by using the Twitter handle #UKCP18.

## UKCP18 Beyond November

Fai Fung - UKCP Climate Services Manager, Met Office

The work on the UK Climate Projections will not stop after launch. The online UKCP18 helpdesk (available through the new web pages) will be available to answer queries about the products and services available, much like the UKCP09 helpdesk.

The UKCP18 team will be participating in a number of events, organised by users, to introduce and understand how UKCP18 can be used. We will be monitoring queries and feedback from the events to help improve the existing products and services as well as inform any follow-on activities to aid their use.




The next focus will be on preparing the high-resolution (convection-permitting) projections at 2.2km spatial resolution, which should be available by summer 2019. These projections provide more realistic information on extreme events such as intense summer storms that we experience in the UK.

We will continue to seek scientific oversight from the Peer Review Panel and testing of usability by the user groups through this process.



If you have any queries relating to this newsletter, please contact the [Project Team](#).

Issued on behalf of Defra, BEIS and Environment Agency by the Met Office



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