

2030 forecast: fire, famine and flood

theday.co.uk/2030-forecast-fire-famine-and-flood-4 9 January 2025



Inferno: A Jewish temple burned in Pasadena, California as hurricane-force winds swept through the region. More than 1,000 structures have been destroyed — so far.

Could science fix global warming? A fire is spreading through the streets of Los Angeles, California. Some fear without action, it could be a vision of the future.

What's happening?

Imagine leaving your home to find the street on fire. The sky is dark with smoke and your neighbours are running for safety.

This was the scene in areas of **Los Angeles**, a big city in **California**, on Wednesday morning. As many as 30,000 people had to leave their homes. Strong winds meant the fire spread quickly, putting more and more people in danger.

Find out more

Fire **experts** explained that dry plants and strong winds mean **wildfires** can spread quickly. Some people warn that fires will be more common in the future if we do not act now on **climate change**.

Here are five more **predictions** for 2030:

- 1. Unique heat.** By the early 2030s, 92% of countries will probably face “extreme heat” every two years, making it hard to grow food.
- 2. Fatal forecast.** Between 2030 and 2050, climate change could cause an extra 250,000 deaths a year due to issues such as heat stress.

3. Renewable boom. The world is on course to power half the planet's electricity demands with **renewable energy** by 2030.

4. Lost forest. **Brazil's** president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has promised to protect the **Amazon** rainforest by 2030 and stop it from being cut down.

5. Great solar wall. In a **desert** in northwest **China**, plans are underway to build a new great wall of China made out of **solar panels**. It could power whole cities.

The future contains reasons to fear and reasons to hope. The first can make you feel helpless. The second can inspire change.

Could science fix global warming?

Some say

Yes! New technology is allowing us to use **renewable energy** to power the world. By 2030 we could massively lower our **greenhouse gas** emissions, which will help to fix **global warming**.

Others think

No! The planet is still on course to keep warming up. This will do terrible damage to our planet, which cannot be undone. Scientists alone cannot fix global warming. Everyone has to act.

Six steps to discovery

Some people say

1. Connect

"I firmly believe nature brings solace in all troubles."

Anne Frank (1929 – 1945), German-Jewish author and Holocaust victim

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What do you think?

How do you feel about this story? - Do you feel hopeful about the future? Do you think your generation can fix climate change?

2. Wonder

What questions do you have? - For example: Which types of technology are behind the boom in renewable energy?

3. Investigate

What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know for certain about this story and one thing we cannot say for sure.

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - Should schools teach about climate change news even when the news is bad? What do you think?

5. Express

What do others believe? - In groups, come up with one more change that you expect to see by the year 2030. They can be related to the environment, travel, technology or other areas.

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - Write a letter to the people of California, encouraging them to feel hopeful about the future.

Glossary

Los Angeles - A city in California, USA. It is known for one of its districts - Hollywood, home of the US film industry.

California - A large state on the west coast of the USA. It is the country's most populous state, with more than 37 million people. First settled by Native Americans as much as 13,000 years ago, the area was subsequently conquered by Spain, then was absorbed into Mexico, which was forced to hand it over to the USA in 1848.

Experts - Someone who knows a lot about a particular subject.

Wildfires - An uncontrolled fire that burns in a forest, grassland, or other sparsely populated area. Wildfires are becoming more common with global warming.

Climate change - Long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Human action is a major cause of climate change.

Predictions - Guesses about the future, often based on some evidence.

Renewable energy - Energy sources, such as wind and solar power, that do not use up fossil fuels and pollute the environment.

Brazil - The largest country in South America, home to 217 million people.

Amazon - A large river and jungle in South America. Also the name of a US-based company that started off selling books online. It now sells almost any product and is expanding into futuristic computer technology.

Desert - Dry land where there is very little rain and few plants.

China - A country in East Asia, home to 1.4 billion people.

Solar panels - Panels which capture energy from the sun and turn it into electricity.

Greenhouse gas - Gases in the Earth's atmosphere that trap heat, contributing to global warming. Carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and water vapour are all greenhouse gases.

Global warming - The Earth is getting hotter due to climate change.