While climate change is global, its risks and remedies are local and varied. For the nearly 11 million residents of Georgia, a warming world is creating multiple threats. Rising seas jeopardize the state’s coastal communities. Increasing heat extends the already miserable pollen season. And warming winters pose a danger to the iconic fruit of the Peach State.

Climate Central has a library of resources to help tell the story of climate change in Georgia and elsewhere.

**Sea level rise and coastal flooding**

Today at least 100,000 people in Georgia are at risk of coastal flooding. In three decades, researchers estimate that an additional 38,000 people on or near the Georgia shoreline may be affected due to sea level rise. [Vulnerable populations](#) will be among those at greatest risk.

Climate Central’s [Surging Seas Risk Finder: Georgia](#) interactive tool makes it possible to view sea level threats down to the zip code, showing local projections and potential impacts on people and infrastructure, while the [Coastal Risk Screening Tool](#) provides zoomable maps.

Coastal land at risk of an annual flood near Savannah, GA in 2050
Warming winters

No season in Georgia is heating up faster than winter. That’s true for most of the country. And while milder winter temperatures may sound good to those who hate cold weather, less winter chill linked to climate change comes with consequences, including risk to peach crops from a shortened dormant season.

Danger days

Summer heat and humidity fueled by a warming climate is also on the rise in Georgia. In Columbus, the number of days each year above 95 degrees has more than doubled since 1970. These “danger days” of extreme heat create a direct threat to health and productivity.

2019 marked Georgia’s hottest year on record.

GA key climate messages

source: NOAA/NCEI

- Like most of the Southeast, Georgia has not heated as much as other states. But “business as usual” emissions scenarios are expected to bring unprecedented warming to the state this century, resulting in increased heat wave intensity. High temperatures, combined with high humidity, can create dangerous heat index values.

- Higher temperatures will increase the rate of loss of soil moisture during dry spells, which could lead to more intense droughts and increased competition for the state’s water resources.

- Global sea level rise has increased by about 8 inches since 1880 and is projected to rise by as much as another 4 feet by 2100. Sea level rise will increase the frequency, extent and severity of coastal flooding along Georgia’s coastline. Continued sea level rise will present major challenges to Georgia’s coastal water management system and could cause extensive economic damage through ecosystem destruction and losses in property, tourism and agriculture.
Downpours and drought
A warmer atmosphere can hold more water. And that can result in increased downpours. Heavy rainfall contributes to the overflow of Georgia’s streams, creeks and rivers known as inland flooding—although other factors also play a role.

Higher temperatures can also lead to worsening drought, threatening Georgia’s wetlands and agriculture.

Opportunities in renewables
Georgia consistently ranks among the top 10 states in installed solar capacity, with wide-open, flat spaces ideal for solar arrays. The state has more than tripled its solar generation in the past decade.

WeatherPower estimates the wind- and solar-generated electricity for every state, along with estimates for each city and county.