

UK faces escalating climate extremes, Met office warns



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LONDON, July 14—Extreme weather is becoming the new normal in the UK, according to the Met Office’s latest State of the UK Climate report, which warns that the country’s climate is now “notably different” from just a few decades ago.

The report reveals that the UK is breaking heat and rainfall records with increasing frequency as global warming intensifies. Greenhouse gas emissions have led to a rise in the number of hot days

and a decrease in extremely cold nights, fundamentally reshaping weather patterns across the country.

Climate scientist Mike Kendon, lead author of the report, emphasized that the UK is on a steady warming trajectory. “Every year that goes by is another upward step,” he said, noting that changes are already having tangible impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity.

The year 2024 saw a series of record-breaking events, including the second-warmest February, warmest May, warmest spring, and the fifth-warmest December and winter since records began in 1884. Early data suggests some of these records have already been surpassed in 2025.

This summer, the UK is grappling with its third heatwave, affecting not only southern England but also Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland. In response to the ongoing heat and drought conditions, Yorkshire imposed the first hosepipe ban of the year following the warmest June on record. England also recorded its driest and sunniest spring in over 130 years.

The Environment Agency declared drought status for Yorkshire and north-west England in June, with more regions expected to be added after the National Drought Group’s upcoming meeting.

The Met Office warns that without significant action to reduce emissions, the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events in the UK will only worsen in the years to come.