

# **IMGA** **gas NEWS**

Interstate Municipal Gas Agency

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## **Summer 2020 Temperature Outlook: Hotter Than Average in Much of the East and West**

Summer 2020 is expected to be near average or hotter across the Lower 48, according to the latest outlook issued by The Weather Company, an IBM Business. This summer is also expected to be warmer than last year for the contiguous United States.

Much of the Northeast and mid-Atlantic, with the exception of portions of northern New England, can anticipate above-average temperatures from June through August. Most of Maine, northern New Hampshire and far northeastern Vermont are expected to be near average or slightly warmer.

Warmer-than-average temperatures are also expected from the western Plains into the Northwest, Great Basin and Four Corners region. Temperatures will be farthest above average from eastern Washington and eastern Oregon into Idaho, central Montana, northwestern Colorado and northern Utah.

Southern California and southern Arizona, however, will trend closer to average or slightly warmer this summer. Areas from the eastern Plains into the Midwest and Southeast will also generally experience temperatures near to slightly above average.

La Niña conditions are expected to develop later this year and this is one factor that suggests that a hot summer is ahead for much of the Lower 48.

Sea-surface temperatures are beginning to cool in the equatorial Pacific while warmer water temperatures have emerged in the Indian Ocean and near Indonesia, indicating a transition to La Niña will occur this summer.

Temperatures in the contiguous U.S. typically are hotter than average when a shift toward La Niña takes place in the summer. Although the presence of La Niña, El Niño or neither are “less dynamically impactful in the summer than in the winter, historical analogs suggest a skew towards the hotter side of summer spectrum, as conditions dry out across the northern U.S.,” noted Dr. Todd

## **2020 IMGA ANNUAL MEETING**

Due to the ongoing corona virus-related restrictions, the 2020 IMGA Annual Meeting continues to be postponed. Once restrictions are eased, we will reevaluate the economics and safety of either rescheduling the meeting or combining it with the 2021 Annual Meeting. We look forward to hopefully visiting with all of our members soon.

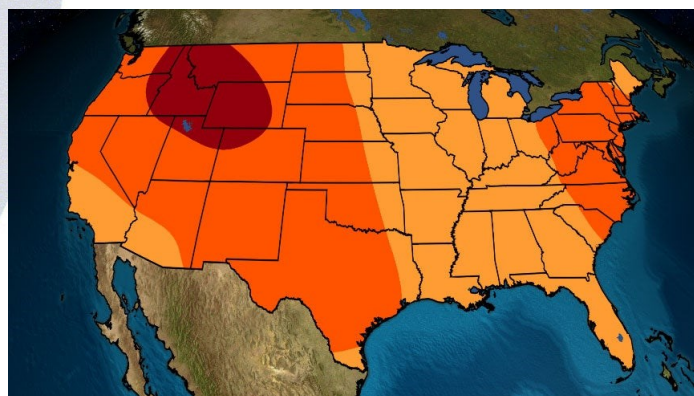
Crawford, chief meteorologist at The Weather Company.

Specifically, the West and Northeast will lean toward a hotter-than-average summer, with hotter conditions between those regions due to the expected transition to La Niña. This warmer trend in the western and northeastern U.S. is also supported by climate model forecasts.

Another factor in the summer outlook is soil moisture. The ground remains wetter than average from the Northern and central Plains into the Ohio Valley and parts of the Southeast.

However, the soil is generally not as wet as last year and conditions are expected to dry out later this summer. Drier soil conditions correlate to warmer conditions and as a result, a slightly warmer summer compared to last year is anticipated in the north-central U.S.

Additionally, the upper-level pattern expected to be in place, along with climate models, indicate an unusually warm summer for much of the Lower 48.



## IMGA Member Communities

Aledo, Illinois  
Auburn, Illinois  
Bethany, Illinois  
Chester, Illinois  
Cobden, Illinois  
Corning, Iowa  
Creal Springs, Illinois  
Divernon, Illinois  
Enfield, Illinois  
Findlay, Illinois  
Franklin, Illinois  
Fulton, Missouri  
Grayville, Illinois  
Karnak, Illinois  
Lamoni, Iowa  
Louisville, Illinois  
Milford, Illinois  
New Boston, Illinois  
Perryville, Missouri  
Pinckneyville, Illinois  
Pittsfield, Illinois  
Plattsburg, Missouri  
Pleasant Hill, Illinois  
Riverton, Illinois  
Rossville, Illinois  
Tamms, Illinois  
Thebes, Illinois  
Vienna, Illinois  
Waverly, Illinois  
Westville, Illinois  
White Hall, Illinois  
Winchester, Illinois

## IMGA Eligible Utility

DD Farms, Inc.  
Eastern Illinois University  
Graceland University  
Illinois State University  
Southern Illinois University-Carbondale  
Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville  
Western Illinois University

## Energy Conservation: Ways to Save Energy

Energy conservation can be as simple as turning off lights or appliances when you do not need them.

The behavior adjustments that have the highest potential for utility savings are turning down the heat on our thermostat in the winter and using your air conditioner less in the summer. Heating and cooling costs constitute nearly half of an average home's utility bills, so these reductions in the intensity and frequency of heating and cooling offer the greatest savings.

“Phantom loads,” or the electricity used by electronics when they are turned off or in standby mode, are a major source of energy waste. In fact, it is estimated that 75% of the energy used to power household electronics is consumed when they are switched off, which can cost you up to \$200 per year.

A programmable or smart thermostat can be set to automatically turn off or reduce heating and cooling during the times when you are asleep or away. When you install a programmable thermostat, you eliminate wasteful energy use from heating and cooling without upgrading your HVAC system.



Water heating is a major contributor to your energy consumption. You can simply use less hot water, turn down the thermostat on your water heater, or insulate your water heater and the first six feet of hot and cold water pipes.

Energy conservation is important and beneficial for many reasons. You can save money, increase your property value, and protect the environment all through simple energy-saving measures. These are great benefits you can gain from saving energy no matter your exact motivation for conservation in the first place.

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