

Wind and Water

By Alex Taft

In just a bit under a month, the Atlantic hurricane season, starting on June 1st and ending on November 30th, will start.

This year's hurricane season is also, unfortunately, projected to be a very active season. Scientists at Colorado University have stated that the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season will have

“above-average activity, with at least nineteen named storms

and nine hurricanes.” This is much more than the average hurricane season, with the

average hurricane season having only fourteen named storms and seven hurricanes,

according to meteorologist Matthew Cappucci. Such an active season will likely have

disastrous consequences for any countries and communities affected by the hurricanes

and tropical storms. Aside from the obvious effects on human life that these hurricanes

and storms will have, there will also be immense economic effects. The National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that on average, the past 5 Atlantic

hurricane seasons “reflects a five-year cost average of nearly \$148.4 billion per year.”

This means that on average, the past 5 Atlantic hurricane seasons have cost a total of

nearly 150 billion dollars per year, which is just an absolutely staggering amount of

money. Such an immense cost per season sets a dark tone for the 2022 season, which

is again, projected to be an extra active season, meaning it'll most likely be even more

costly than the average season. We've established that this hurricane season might

suck, a lot. But why? Well, as climate change continues to affect our planet, storms

have also become more severe as a result of warmer sea water temperatures. “As more



water vapor is evaporated into the atmosphere it becomes fuel for more powerful storms to develop”, explains the United States Geological Survey. The warming seas, which cause more storm-fueling water vapor to enter the atmosphere, allow for more extreme hurricane seasons, hence the 2022 hurricane season being projected to be so severe. This is an unfortunate truth, but everyone can do something to help prevent more severe hurricane seasons such as the one that’s just on the horizon from occurring. For instance, just eating more locally grown foods reduces the amount of warming carbon dioxide that enters the atmosphere because of the food requiring less transport, a process which creates carbon dioxide due to the transportation trucks outputting carbon dioxide (How to reduce). Other means of reducing your carbon footprint include things as simple as recycling more, taking shorter showers, and cycling to nearby locations as opposed to driving. If everyone works together, re-occurring terrors such as a hyper-active Atlantic hurricane season could be a thing of the past.