

Environment/Climate Change

The environment as an election issue looks at how human, government, and company activities affect **nature, sustainability**, and **climate change**. The issue of climate change looks at how human activities, like burning oil, gas, and coal, are changing Earth's climate at a faster rate and presenting new environmental challenges.

- Sea level rise, ice loss and extreme weather – all signs of climate change – increased during 2015-2019; this period is also going to be the warmest five-year period on record, according to the World Meteorological Organization.
- Durham has had a 129% increase in heavy rains since 1950, believed to be an effect of climate change. This can lead to constant heavy flooding in the area.
- North Carolina's per person waste creation is much lower than the national average (.94 tons vs. 1.28 tons per person per year respectively for 2008)!
- Durham is in the top 15 counties in NC in recycling common household items, recycling 137.28 lbs per person in 2018.

KQED Youth Reporting on Climate Change States at Risk Climate Change Data for NC

<https://statesatrisk.org/north-carolina/all>

Nasa Climate Reports <https://climate.nasa.gov/>

Environment - Who Decides? 	
You choose:	They decide:
County Commissioners, Mayor, City Council	Decisions about county and city environmental impact
Commissioner of Agriculture	Promotes agriculture, soil and water conservation, and forestry protection
NC House and Senate	Pass environmental laws for the state
NC Attorney General	Can bring lawsuits against companies harming the environment
Governor	Declares states of emergency, chooses heads of state environmental agencies
US House and Senate	Control federal funding, approves leaders of federal agencies like the EPA, pass environmental laws for the nation
President	Determines how the federal government prioritizes different environmental issues, chooses leaders of federal agencies like the EPA