

Earth Is Warming Faster Than Previously Estimated, New Study Shows

Researchers found the first statistically significant evidence that global warming is accelerating.

By [Laura Millan](#) March 6, 2026

Planetary warming has significantly accelerated over the past 10 years, with temperatures rising at a higher rate since 2015 than in any previous decade on record, a new study showed.

The Earth warmed around 0.35 degrees Celsius in the decade to 2025, compared to just under 0.2C per decade on average between 1970 and 2015, according to [a paper](#) published on Friday in the scientific journal *Geophysical Research Letters*. This is the first statistically significant evidence of an acceleration of global warming, the authors said.

The past three years have been the [hottest on record](#), compared to the average before the Industrial Revolution. In 2024, warming went past 1.5C, the lower limit set by the Paris Agreement. That target refers to temperature increases over 20 years, but breaching it for one year shows efforts to slow down climate change have been insufficient, the scientists who wrote the new paper said.

The findings shed light on an ongoing debate among researchers. While there is consensus that greenhouse gas emissions have caused the planet to heat up since pre-industrial times, that warming rate had been steady for decades. But [record-breaking temperatures in recent years have led scientists to question whether the pace of temperature gains is accelerating.](#)

Demonstrating that was difficult due to natural fluctuations in temperatures. The researchers filtered out the “noise” to make the “underlying long-term warming signal” more clearly visible, said Grant Foster, a co-author of the study and a US-based statistics expert.

Researchers isolated phenomena including the El Niño weather phase, volcanic eruptions and solar irradiance. When looking at temperature increases without their influence, [the authors concluded the evidence is “strong” that the accelerated warming was not due to an unusually hot 2023 and 2024, but that since 2015 global temperatures departed from their previous, slower rate of warming.](#)

[The new report adds to a growing body of work that indicates climate change is having quicker and larger impacts on the planet than scientists have previously understood.](#)

A [separate paper](#) published this week found that many studies on sea-level increases underestimate how much water along the coast has already risen.

“If the warming rate of the past 10 years continues, it would lead to a long-term exceedance of the 1.5C limit of the Paris Agreement **before 2030**,” said Stefan Rahmstorf, the lead author of the warming study and a researcher at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

“How quickly the Earth continues to warm ultimately depends on how rapidly we reduce global CO2 emissions from fossil fuels to zero.”

Article link: https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-03-06/earth-is-warming-faster-than-previously-estimated-new-study-shows?cmpid=BBD030626_GREENDAILY&utm_campaign=greendaily&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_term=260306&embedded-checkout=true

(AA note: there is no question that we are on a trend line toward disaster. Will we be smart enough to get off this trend line? Will you do your part, for your kids, grandkids, and children everywhere? No one can do everything, but EVERYONE can do something to help. There is hope for a livable future IF we act now.)