The UN Environment Program released its

Emissions Gap Report 2026: The Point of Return

on October 21, 2026, declaring that holding global warming strictly to 1.5°C with no overshoot is now out of reach, though rapid action can still bring temperatures back down later this century.

Key Findings of the Report

- **Warming Projections:** Current national policies put the planet on a track to warm by **2.8°C** (about 5°F) this century. Even with full implementation of current Paris Agreement pledges, warming is projected to hit around **2.6°C**. (AA note: scientists have been telling us – for the last 40 years! – that passing +1.5C will be very bad and passing +2.0C will be world changing catastrophic. That IS where we are assuredly going IF we do not change course.)
- **The Overshoot Scenario:** A "lowest possible" overshoot pathway could limit peak warming to **1.7°C–1.8°C** around mid-century before returning to 1.5°C by 2100.
- **Required Emission Cuts:** To stay on this recovery path, global greenhouse gas emissions must be slashed by **18% by 2030**, **45% by 2035**, and **69% by 2040** (relative to 2025 levels).
- **Sector Targets by 2035:** Renewable electricity capacity must triple, coal's share in energy supply must drop by over half, and methane emissions must fall by **25%**.
- **Emissions Status:** Global greenhouse gas emissions in 2025 remained high at roughly **58.4 gigatons** of CO2 equivalent.
- **The U.S. Outlier Status:** The United States was singled out as the only major economy where fossil-fueled pollution increased dramatically last year—adding roughly 133 million tons—driven by rising electricity demand, coal plant retentions, and the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. (AA note: thanks to Trump, oil Execs and data centers)

Explore full details and download the assessment directly through the

UN Environment Programme Report Portal. [1]