**SIDEBAR:**

State of the Climate 2018

The American Meteorological Society releases a State of the Climate report each summer summarizing data collected by global environmental monitoring stations around the world. In 2018, here were five key findings.

* **2018 was the fourth warmest year,** behind only 2016, 2015 and 2017. Since the start of the 21st Century, every year has been hotter than the global average temperature recorded from 1981 to 2010.
* **Glaciers have continued to melt for the 30th year in a row.** In 2018, approximately one meter of ice melted off the top of the average glacier.
* **Sea levels rose for the seventh year in a row.** The annual mean sea level is the highest it’s been in 26 years.
* **The global average carbon dioxide concentration at Earth’s surface is the highest ever recorded** according to data that goes back 800,000 years. Carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide released in the atmosphere continue to increase.
* **Arctic air temperatures rose at twice the rate of the rest of the Earth** with the five past years’ Arctic temperatures surpassing records since 1900.

*Source: American Meteorological Society's*[***The State of the Climate in 2018***](https://www.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/publications/bulletin-of-the-american-meteorological-society-bams/state-of-the-climate/)