

FACTS AND FIGURES: CLIMATE CHANGE IN MICHIGAN

Michigan's rapidly increasing temperatures have caused the water levels of the Great Lakes to fluctuate, undermining tourism along Michigan's vast shorelines, while more severe rainstorms cause widespread damage from flooding. However, Michigan's economy could be a major winner with the growing popularity of electric cars.

MICHIGAN VOTERS WANT CLIMATE ACTION

- 84% of Michigan voters believe climate change is a serious problem.
- Nine in 10 want the federal government to do more to prevent climate change-causing pollution, with three in four who say limiting pollution should be a priority. More than seven in 10 support the implementation of federal policies to develop more clean energy in the U.S.
- 88% support requiring new cars and trucks sold in the U.S. to have higher fuel efficiency and produce lower carbon emissions.
- Nearly two-thirds of registered voters in Michigan would feel more favorably toward an elected official who supported moving the U.S. to 100% renewable energy by 2045. [[Sierra Club/GSG, January 2019](#)]

MICHIGAN FAILS TO UTILIZE CLEAN ENERGY RESOURCES

- Only 2% of Michigan's electricity generation comes from renewable energy sources like wind and solar. [[U.S. Energy Information Administration](#)]
- Michigan has seen strong growth in wind energy generation since 2010, but has the capacity for much more. [[U.S. DOE, NREL](#)]
- Nearly 40% more Michiganders work in the wind and solar energy industries than all those working to generate electricity from oil, coal, and natural gas combined. [[U.S. Energy Jobs 2019 U.S. Energy and Employment Report](#)]

CLIMATE CHANGE DRAINS MICHIGAN'S ECONOMY

- Lake level fluctuations driven by increased temperatures and variation in precipitation patterns will require costly dredging to keep shipping routes open and harm tourism by submerging beaches and piers.
- Warmer temperatures further undermine Michigan's [\\$25 billion](#) tourism industry by threatening wildlife watching, fishing, snowmobiling, and skiing. [[Center for Integrative Environmental Research, UMD](#)]
- Michigan has 36,000 miles of rivers and streams and is especially vulnerable to economic damages from flooding, which could reach \$700 million annually by the end of the century. [[Center for Integrative Environmental Research, UMD](#)]

CLEAR OPPORTUNITIES WHERE POLICY CAN HELP

- Michigan can promote the adoption of electric vehicles by expanding EV charging infrastructure around the state, increasing tax incentives for Michigan consumers to buy EVs, and opposing the proposed rollback of federal clean car standards.
- Michigan can strengthen its renewable portfolio standard in order to build on the economic and environmental benefits produced by the current, relatively modest, standard.