



# CLIMAFACTS

MONTHLY NEWSLINE

## NEWSLINE

DECEMBER



### Wildlife's Helping Hand in Revealing Environmental Issues

**Author:** Sanuli Wijayasundara

**Date:** 3 Oct 2025

**Link to Blog Post:**

<https://climafacts.ca/wildlifes-helping-hand-in-revealing-environmental-issues/>

Wildlife is revealing the impacts of climate change and environmental pollution. Researchers studying the American pika, a small mountain-dwelling rodent known as an indicator species in B.C. and Alberta, are using its poop to analyze eDNA, offering insights into the species' decline and the broader effects of climate change. Meanwhile, orcas are facing health risks due to toxic "forever chemicals" in their diet, with certain populations more affected based on their prey choices. The article also touches on southern bird species encroaching on northern territories and

the unwanted arrival of invasive red swamp crayfish in Nova Scotia.

Researchers in B.C. and Alberta are studying the American pika for climate change. By analyzing eDNA from pika poop, scientists aim to understand the factors behind the species' decline and how rapid environmental changes are affecting ecosystems. This non-invasive approach helps researchers monitor the pika's genetic health and food web relationships, with the hopes of aiding their survival in changing climates.

In the ocean, orcas are facing health threats from persistent organic pollutants (POPs), as mentioned in a study (Jensen et al., 1969). A recent study shows that orcas consuming marine mammals, which have higher fat content, are exposed to higher levels of these toxins compared to those eating fish. These chemicals disrupt orca reproductive and immune systems, underscoring the urgent need for stricter chemical disposal and conservation measures to protect these apex predators.

The article also highlights how climate change is reshaping wildlife dynamics, with southern bird species moving into northern regions, and invasive red swamp crayfish emerging as an ecological threat in Nova Scotia. These shifts in species populations reflect the broader challenges of environmental change and biodiversity loss in response to rising temperatures and human activity.

The challenges faced by species like pikas, orcas, and birds reflect the growing impact of climate change and pollution on our planet's ecosystems. These shifts in wildlife behaviour and health are stark reminders of the urgent need for action. By supporting conservation efforts, reducing chemical waste, and advocating for policies that address environmental threats, we can help preserve the biodiversity that sustains us.

**To learn more and read the full article, visit our [website Blog Page](#).**





# The Impact of Climate Change on North Atlantic Right Whales: A Conservation Crisis

**Author:** Miranda Jacques

**Date:** 7 Oct 2025

**Link to Blog Post:**

<https://climafacts.ca/the-impact-of-climate-change-on-north-atlantic-right-whales-a-conservation-crisis/>

The article explores the impact of climate change on North Atlantic right whales, one of the most endangered whale species in the world. As ocean temperatures shift due to global climate change, the ecosystems that right whales depend on are being disrupted, presenting new challenges for conservation. This research dives into how climate variability affects whale populations by altering food availability and habitat use. Understanding these effects is crucial for developing effective conservation strategies and ensuring the survival of these whales.

Pershing et. al. aim to address the

question: How does climate change impact the conservation biology of North Atlantic right whales? This topic is highly relevant as climate change is affecting marine ecosystems globally, with potentially dire consequences for endangered species. In particular, right whales rely on a specific prey, Calanus finmarchicus (a type of zooplankton), whose abundance and distribution are influenced by climate variability.

This research builds upon previous studies that identified declining whale populations but lacked a clear understanding of the role that climate

variability plays. Greene and Pershing hypothesize that climate change, particularly changes in ocean circulation and warming sea temperatures, disrupt the whales’ food supply, leading to malnutrition, lower reproductive rates, and increased mortality.

To investigate this, the authors analyze long-term datasets on ocean temperatures, prey availability, and whale population dynamics, focusing on the Gulf of Maine and surrounding regions where right whales feed.

To learn more and read the full article, visit our [website Blog Page](#).

## ARCTIC WILDLIFE

X O F C I T C R A X B S  
A S P I B W S W M P A S  
M N O H W C U U N R A A  
L W L R S A S X C K S R  
W U A A A K L T R Y Z L  
O C R U O B I R A C A I  
Y P B X W C N X U H E F  
W E E M H O Y O W S U C  
O U A A A E Y R T S R I  
N I R R I T A C A W C T  
S E E P S N M W S M W R  
A E L A H W R H O S S A

### WORD BANK

- Polar Bear
- Whale
- Arctic Hare
- Narwhal
- Caribou
- Snowy Owl
- Walrus
- Arctic Fox
- Musk Ox







# 5 Benefits of Solar Energy:

Renewable and low-carbon energy source



Low maintenance cost + reduced electricity bills

Contributes to reduced air pollution



Minimizes the strain on finite natural resources

Reduces water consumption compared to other energy sources



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## Trash-Based Water Cleaning System

**ISSUE:** Nagdaha - a polluted lake in Nepal

**SOLUTION:**



Mini wetlands made out of trash, bamboo, styrofoam and plants

**BENEFITS:** 1. cleaning the water  
2. recycling garbage

**Solution for polluted areas of the world with lower budgets**

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## Climate Change & Policies Impacting Newfoundland & Labrador Farming

**Author:** Miranda Jacques

**Date:** 3 Oct 2025

**Link to Blog Post:**

<https://climafacts.ca/climate-change-policies-impacting-newfoundland-labrador-farming/>

Climate change has become one of the most pressing challenges in recent years, impacting ecosystems, economies, and communities worldwide. In particular, agriculture, a sector deeply intertwined with natural environmental conditions, has been profoundly affected by the changing climate. From global warming to shifts in precipitation patterns and increased frequency of extreme weather events, these changes threaten food security and agricultural sustainability. This is especially true in regions like Newfoundland and Labrador (NL), Canada, where limited agricultural land, short growing seasons, and extreme weather conditions complicate food production, creating an urgent need for innovative solutions.

This study investigates the impact of climate change on crop production and food security in NL. The research seeks to understand how climate change, including extreme weather events and temperature fluctuations, exacerbates the province's existing agricultural challenges, such as limited growing seasons and inadequate farmland. The study also aims to explore whether agroecological farming practices and methods that emphasize environmental sustainability and biodiversity can be a viable solution for increasing food production and resilience to climate change in the province.

To learn more and read the full article, visit our [website Blog Page](#).

