

Climate change means category 6 hurricane needed

15th February 2024



Weather experts are calling for a new, stronger category for hurricanes. They say this is because climate change is causing more powerful storms. Scientists in the USA want to extend the current scale used to measure hurricanes. This scale ranks storms from 1 to 5. A category five is currently the strongest. This is when winds reach 252 kph. The meteorologists say a new category of 6 is needed for winds of over 309 kph. Their studies show that in the past decade, there have been five hurricanes and typhoons that would have been a category 6. Hurricanes and typhoons are the same weather phenomenon. The former start in the Atlantic Ocean, while the latter occur in the north-western Pacific Ocean.

Meteorologist Dr James Kossin said it would take a long time for a new category 6 to be accepted. It would need the USA's National Hurricane Center to start researching more intense storms. Dr Kossin hopes to, "inform broader discussions about how to better communicate risk in a warming world". He said "significantly increasing" temperatures are caused by greenhouse gas emissions. This increase in emissions is heating oceans, which gives the water extra energy. This makes hurricanes more powerful, with much higher wind speeds. He believes there will be a greater number of "super-storms" in the future. He said: "These storms keep getting stronger as the climate changes."

Sources: [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com) / [usatoday.com](https://www.usatoday.com) / [newscientist.com](https://www.newscientist.com)

Writing

We need to prepare more for stronger extreme weather events. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

weather / experts / hurricanes / powerful storms / winds / the past decade / Pacific / meteorologist / discussions / a warming world / risk / temperatures / energy / future

True / False

- 1) Experts say we need a new hurricane scale because of climate change. T / F
- 2) A category 1 is currently the strongest storm. T / F
- 3) A category 6 is needed for winds of above 309 kph. T / F
- 4) The article says typhoons and hurricanes are very different. T / F
- 5) The new category 6 could be introduced very soon. T / F
- 6) Warmer oceans are leading to stronger winds. T / F
- 7) A meteorologist believes there'll be more super-storms in the future. T / F
- 8) The meteorologist said climate change will eventually weaken storms. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. experts | a. identical |
| 2. current | b. discharges |
| 3. decade | c. happen |
| 4. same | d. weather patterns |
| 5. occur | e. 10 years |
| 6. meteorologist | f. specialists |
| 7. intense | g. additional |
| 8. emissions | h. weather forecaster |
| 9. extra | i. present |
| 10. climate | j. powerful |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What worries you most about climate change?
- c) What do you do to lower the impact of climate change?
- d) What is your country doing to help fight climate change?
- e) What do you think of super-storms?
- f) Why do some people say climate change isn't real?
- g) What three adjectives best describe this story?
- h) What questions would you like to ask meteorologists?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. extend the current scale used to | a. the climate changes |
| 2. A category five is currently the | b. emissions |
| 3. in the past | c. weather phenomenon |
| 4. Hurricanes and typhoons are the same | d. the future |
| 5. The former start | e. about how to |
| 6. broader discussions | f. strongest |
| 7. caused by greenhouse gas | g. decade |
| 8. This increase in emissions is | h. measure hurricanes |
| 9. there'll be a greater number of super-storms in | i. in the Atlantic Ocean |
| 10. storms keep getting stronger as | j. heating oceans |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of climate change?
- What are your experiences of storms and strong winds?
- What do you know about hurricanes?
- What's the best way to prepare for a hurricane?
- What changes in the weather have you noticed?
- What is the worst thing about storms?
- What are the differences between hurricanes, typhoons and cyclones?
- How much stronger will storms get?

Spelling

- Weather eepxrts
- extend the rcrnute scale
- esrmeau hurricanes
- in the past dadcee
- hurricanes and tynoopsh
- the same weather onpmeeohnn
- a new category 6 to be edtecacp
- researching more stnieen storms
- significantly increasing ueapetrsemtr
- greenhouse gas ssnemiio
- heating nocsae
- in the urutfe

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. e	4. a	5. c
6. h	7. j	8. b	9. g	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Turning Off Lights

You think turning off lights is the best way to cut emissions. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): not using elevators, buying local food or recycling everything.

Role B – Not Using Elevators

You think not using elevators is the best way to cut emissions. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): turning off lights, buying local food or recycling everything.

Role C – Buying Local Food

You think buying local food is the best way to cut emissions. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): not using elevators, turning off lights or recycling everything.

Role D – Recycling Everything

You think recycling everything is the best way to cut emissions. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): not using elevators, buying local food or turning off lights.

Speaking – Emissions

Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways to cut emissions at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| • Hydrogen fuel cars | • No bottled water |
| • Car pooling | • Buy local food |
| • Turn off lights | • Walk everywhere |
| • Don't use elevators | • Recycle everything |

Answers – True False

1	T	2	F	3	T	4	F	5	F	6	T	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.