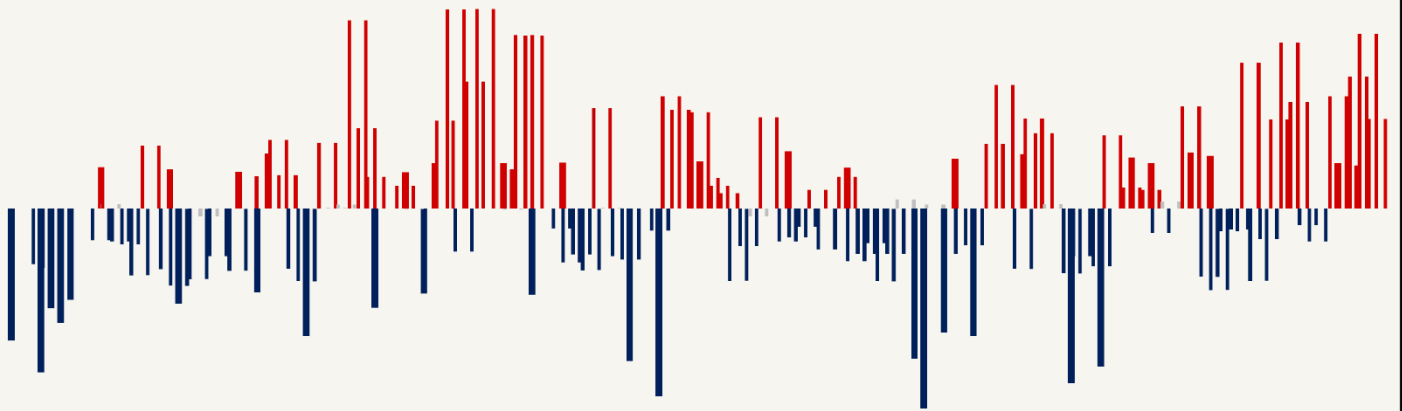


LINCOLN'S FUTURE CLIMATE

Climate Projections to Support Planning
In Lincoln, Nebraska

August 2026



NEBRASKA STATE
CLIMATE OFFICE

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01 | INTRODUCTION

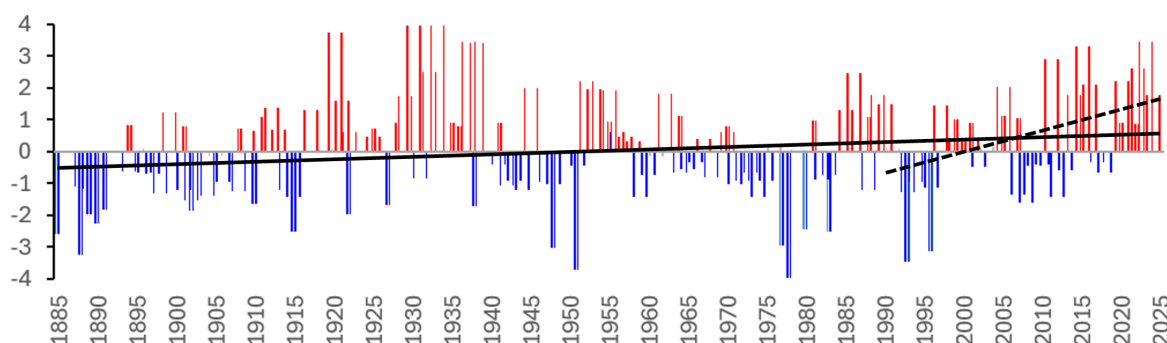
Located in the heart of the Great Plains, Lincoln is Nebraska's capital city and home to more than 300,000 residents. The city experiences a humid continental climate with four distinct seasons and large year-to-year swings in weather conditions. Summers are typically hot and humid, while winters are cold and can bring snow, ice, and occasional Arctic air outbreaks. Average July highs are near 89°F, while average January lows are near 14°F, reflecting the region's wide seasonal temperature range¹.

Lincoln's location near the center of North America brings together warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico and cold, dry Arctic air. These competing influences contribute to heat waves, severe thunderstorms, heavy rainfall, drought, winter storms, and rapid temperature changes. Against this naturally variable background, Lincoln's long-term climate record shows a clear warming trend (Figure 1).

Historical extremes also provide important context. The exceptional heat and drought of the 1930s demonstrate that individual periods can be unusually severe even within a longer-term climate record (Figure 2). Today's warming differs because it reflects a sustained shift in average temperatures rather than a single extreme period^{2,3}.

A WARMING TREND IN LINCOLN

While year-to-year temperatures vary, Lincoln's long-term climate record shows a gradual shift toward warmer conditions, driven by a sharp acceleration in recent decades.



Bars: Each bar shows how that year's temperature compares with the 1887–2025 average. **Blue = cooler than average** | **Red = warmer than average**. **Solid black line:** Long-term trend, 1887–2025 (**+0.08°F/decade**). **Dashed black line:** Recent trend, 1990–2025 (**+0.67°F/decade**)



WHY THIS MATTERS

Lincoln's temperature record shows that **warming has accelerated**. The rate of warming since 1990 is more than eight times the long-term rate. While temperatures continue to vary from year to year, warmer-than-average years have become increasingly common, with many of Lincoln's warmest years occurring since 2000.

Data source: NOAA NCEI

Figure 1. Historical temperature trends in Lincoln.

From Past to Future

Lincoln's historical climate record tells us what we have experienced. Past conditions provide an important reference point, but they may not fully prepare us for future changes. As the climate changes, past conditions may no longer represent the range of conditions Lincoln will experience in the future. Planning for the coming decades also requires understanding how those familiar conditions may change.

Changes in temperature, precipitation, and climate extremes can affect public health, transportation, water resources, energy demand, ecosystems, infrastructure, and economic activity. Looking ahead can help the City anticipate changing conditions as it makes long-term investments, manages risks, and plans for community resilience.

This report presents updated climate projections for Lancaster County and evaluates what those projected changes may mean for the City of Lincoln. It compares observed historical conditions with projected conditions for the middle and end of the century under SSP2-4.5, a middle-of-the-road pathway used for this assessment.

WHAT ABOUT THE DUST BOWL?

Some of Lincoln's warmest individual years occurred during the Dust Bowl era of the 1930s. Those exceptionally hot conditions do not contradict the long-term warming trend.

1 WHY WERE THE DUST BOWL YEARS SO HOT?

The extreme heat of the Dust Bowl developed during an extraordinary combination of prolonged drought, depleted soil moisture, sparse vegetation, and persistent atmospheric conditions across the Great Plains. With little moisture available for evaporation, more of the Sun's energy heated the land surface and the air above it, intensifying summer heat. Dust and vegetation loss likely amplified the drought and regional weather patterns.



2 INDIVIDUAL YEARS VS. LONG-TERM TRENDS

Climate change describes a shift in conditions over many decades, not a requirement that every year be warmer than the last. Lincoln's record still contains unusually hot and cold years, but warm years are becoming more common. The most extreme Dust Bowl heat was concentrated in the central United States, while July 2026 set temperature records when averaged across both the contiguous United States and North America.



3 WHAT COULD THIS MEAN FOR THE FUTURE?

A warmer future climate raises the baseline. If a Dust Bowl-scale drought were to occur in a warmer world, the resulting extreme heat could potentially exceed historical Dust Bowl extremes. Understanding both long-term trends and natural variability helps us better prepare for future risks.



WHY THIS MATTERS

The Dust Bowl reminds us that extreme events can produce record-breaking conditions. The long-term trend shows that Lincoln's overall climate is warming, increasing the likelihood of more frequent and intense heat and other climate impacts in the years ahead.

Sources Donat et al., 2015.

Figure 2. The Dust Bowl and Lincoln's warming trend. Extreme heat during the Dust Bowl was especially pronounced across the central United States and was intensified by severe drought and land-surface conditions. July 2026, in contrast, set temperature records when averaged across both the contiguous United States and North America, illustrating the importance of spatial scale when comparing individual historical extremes with long-term warming.

Why Does Lincoln Need Local Climate Projections?

Global, national, and state climate assessments provide important information about broad climate trends, but many planning decisions depend on what those changes mean locally. Lincoln's future conditions will be shaped not only by climate change, but also by its geography, land use, urban development, infrastructure, population, and the choices made over time.

Local climate projections can help answer practical questions such as:

- How often could temperatures exceed critical heat thresholds?
- How much more common could warm nights become?
- How could heavy precipitation change in amount and frequency?
- How much less common could freezing and extremely cold conditions become?

These changes may affect public health, emergency management, energy use, stormwater and transportation systems, winter maintenance, vegetation and trees, pest pressures, and other city services. Translating global climate information into locally relevant conditions provides a stronger basis for considering climate alongside the other information used in long-term planning and investment.

Why are New Projections Provided?

The City of Lincoln last evaluated future climate conditions as part of the 2021–2027 Climate Action Plan. Since then, climate science has continued to advance. New climate model simulations, updated emissions scenarios, improved observational datasets, and advances in methods for translating global climate information to the local scale have become available.

This report uses the latest generation of climate models participating in the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6), which supports the most recent assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)^{4,5}. Individual climate models represent the climate system somewhat differently. Considering results from multiple models provides a range of plausible future conditions rather than relying on a single projection.

Updating Lincoln's climate projections allows the city to use the best available information when considering infrastructure, public health, water resources, emergency management, energy systems, and community development.

What is Different in This Update?

The most important differences are the newer generation of climate models and updated assumptions about how society and greenhouse gas emissions may change in the future. The projections in the 2021–2027 Climate Action Plan were based on CMIP5 climate models and a higher-emissions future consistent with the scenario framework available at the time. This assessment uses CMIP6 models and SSP2-4.5, commonly described as a Middle of the Road pathway (Figure 3).

Future climate depends in part on how population, economic development, energy use, technology, and greenhouse gas emissions change over time. Shared Socioeconomic Pathways, or SSPs, provide a framework for representing different ways these factors could evolve. SSP2-4.5 represents a future in which social, economic, and technological trends broadly continue along historical patterns without assuming either very aggressive reductions in greenhouse gas emissions or very high future emissions⁶. It is not a prediction of what will occur. Instead, it provides one plausible pathway for evaluating future climate conditions (Figure 4).

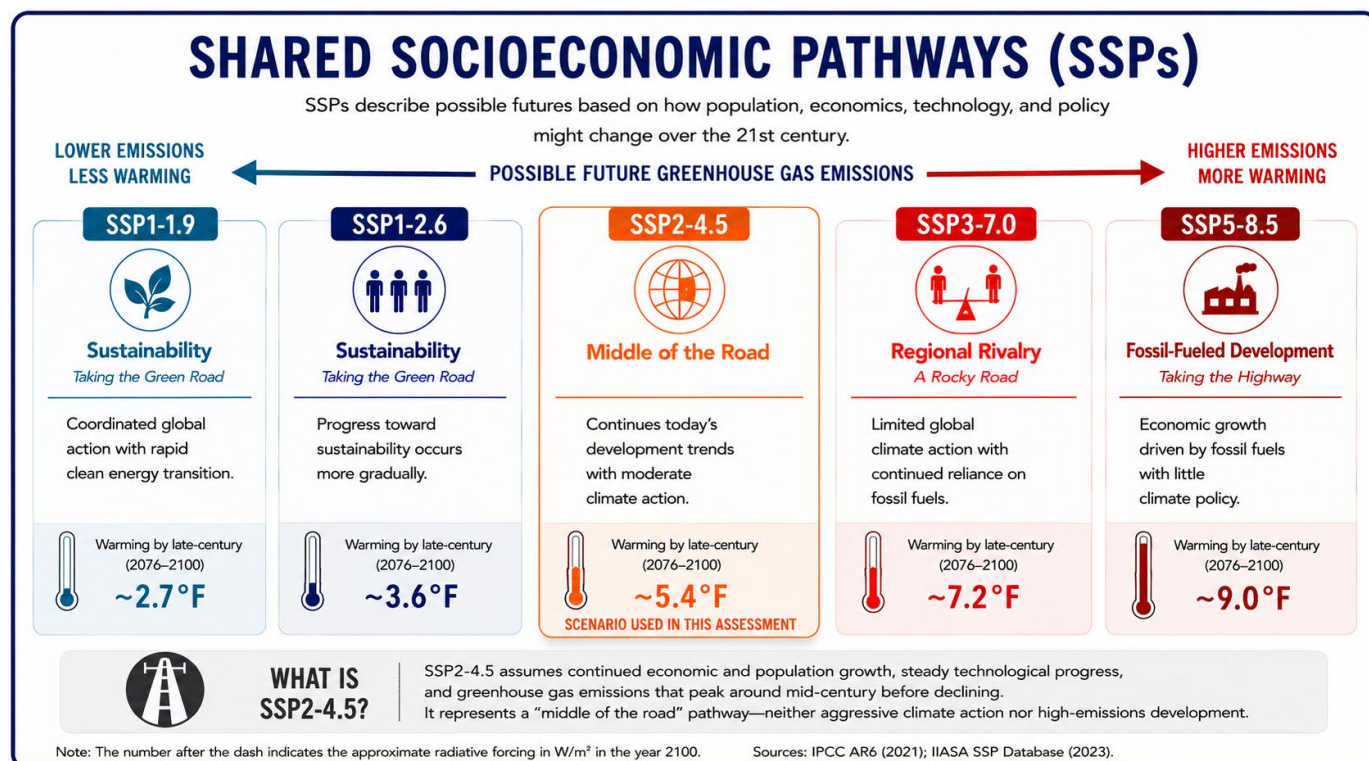


Figure 3. Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs). SSP2-4.5 represents a middle-of-the-road pathway and is used for the climate projections in this assessment.

CMIP6 models also incorporate advances in representing atmospheric processes, land-atmosphere interactions, and climate extremes. Improvements in downscaling allow those global projections to be translated into information more relevant at the local scale.

Direct comparison with the 2021 Climate Action Plan is not possible for every indicator because the two assessments use different climate models, scenarios, datasets, reference periods, geographic scales, and, in some cases, different climate measures. For example, the earlier assessment reported extreme heat using heat index thresholds, while this assessment evaluates air-temperature thresholds. Where the indicators are comparable, however, the overall picture is similar. Both assessments project about 5°F of warming mid-century, and both indicate that heavy precipitation is likely to become more frequent or intense.

This assessment also provides a more detailed picture of climate conditions relevant to local planning. In addition to average temperature and precipitation, it evaluates warm nights, extreme heat and cold, heating and cooling demand, annual and multi-day precipitation, and the frequency of days exceeding specific precipitation thresholds. Together, these indicators provide a broader view of how Lincoln's climate may change through the middle and end of the century.

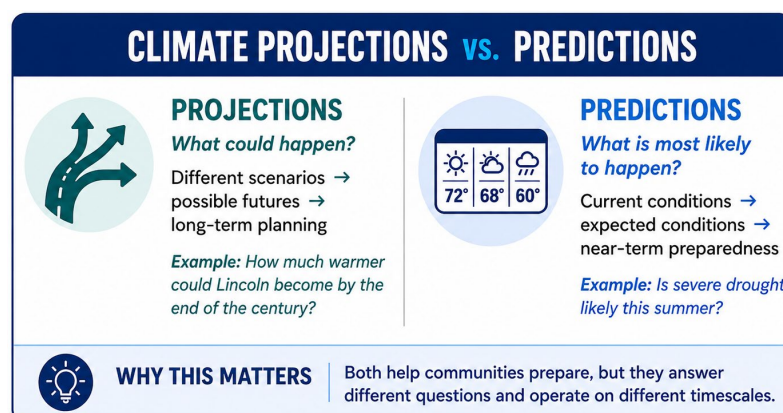


Figure 4. Climate projections vs. predictions.

02 | METHODOLOGY

DATA

This assessment used historical climate conditions and future climate projections obtained from the Climate Resilience Information System (CRIS) Explorer, developed by NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information and the North Carolina Institute for Climate Studies⁷. The CRIS Explorer provides access to historical climate observations and downscaled climate projections for temperature, precipitation, and related climate indicators.

Historical values are based on NOAA's nClimGrid dataset and represent observed climate conditions⁸. Future projections are based on the Localized Constructed Analogs Version 2 (LOCA2) dataset, which provides statistically downscaled projections from global climate models participating in the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6) (Figure 5)⁹.

Because the CRIS Explorer provides these data at the county level, we used Lancaster County to represent conditions in Lincoln. The results therefore represent county-level conditions rather than values calculated specifically for the City of Lincoln.

All future projections use SSP2-4.5, the Middle of the Road pathway described in Section 1.

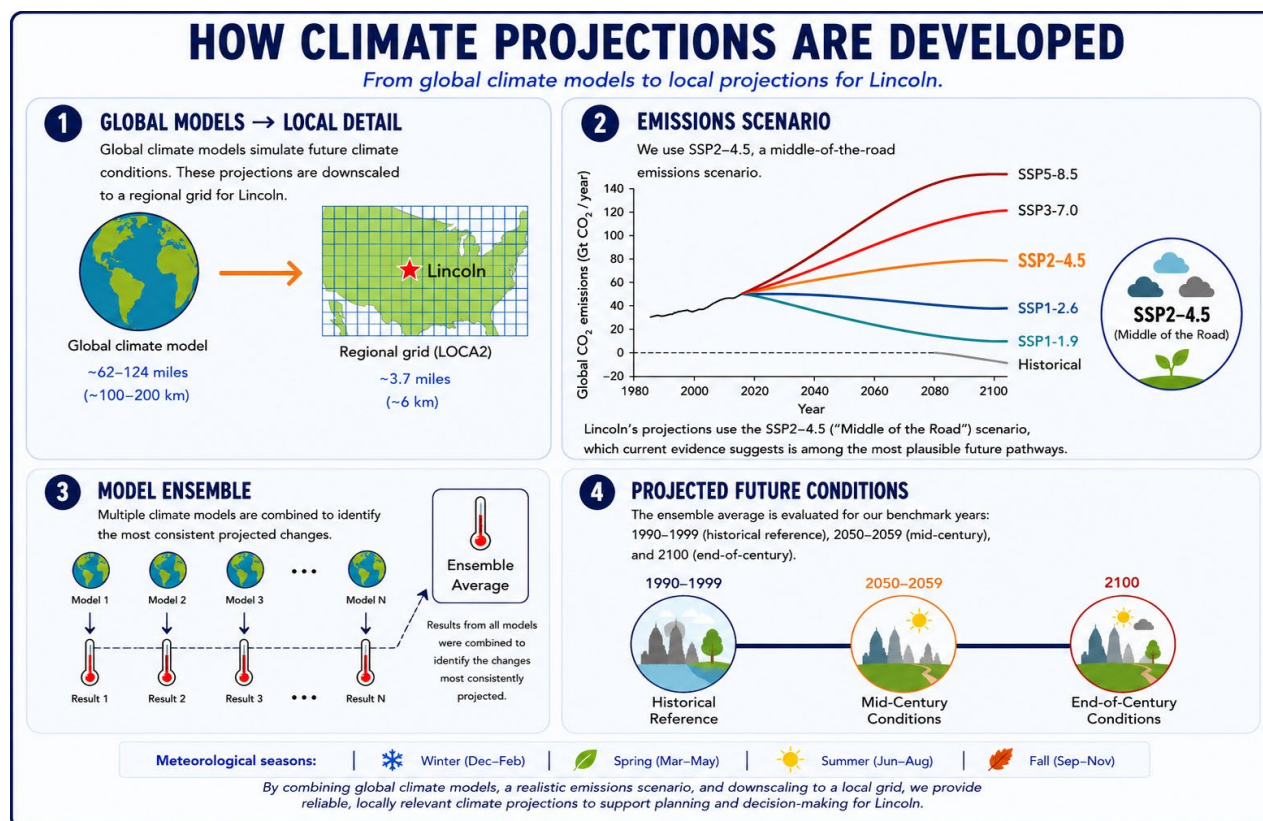


Figure 5. Development of Local Climate Projections. Global climate-model projections are downscaled to provide locally relevant information and evaluated across multiple models and future time periods.

Climate Projection Methods

This assessment uses climate indicator values available through the CRIS Explorer rather than processing daily LOCA2 model output independently. In consultation with the Mayor's Office, the Nebraska State Climate Office identified climate indicators relevant to Lincoln's planning needs and obtained historical and projected values from the CRIS Explorer.

For each future period, **Mean** represents the average across the climate-model ensemble for that indicator under the SSP2-4.5 scenario. Likewise, **Max** represents the highest value among the models included in the ensemble under the SSP2-4.5 scenario. Max should not be interpreted as a statistical upper bound, confidence limit, or worst-case scenario.

Conditions were evaluated for three reference periods (Figure 6):

- Observed historical conditions (1990s; 1990–1999)
- Mid-century projections (2050s; 2050–2059)
- End-of-century projections (2100)

The 1990s were used as the historical reference period because the CRIS Explorer provides observed values by decade rather than for a standard 30-year climate period. As a result, the historical values may reflect more year-to-year variability than a 30-year climate average.

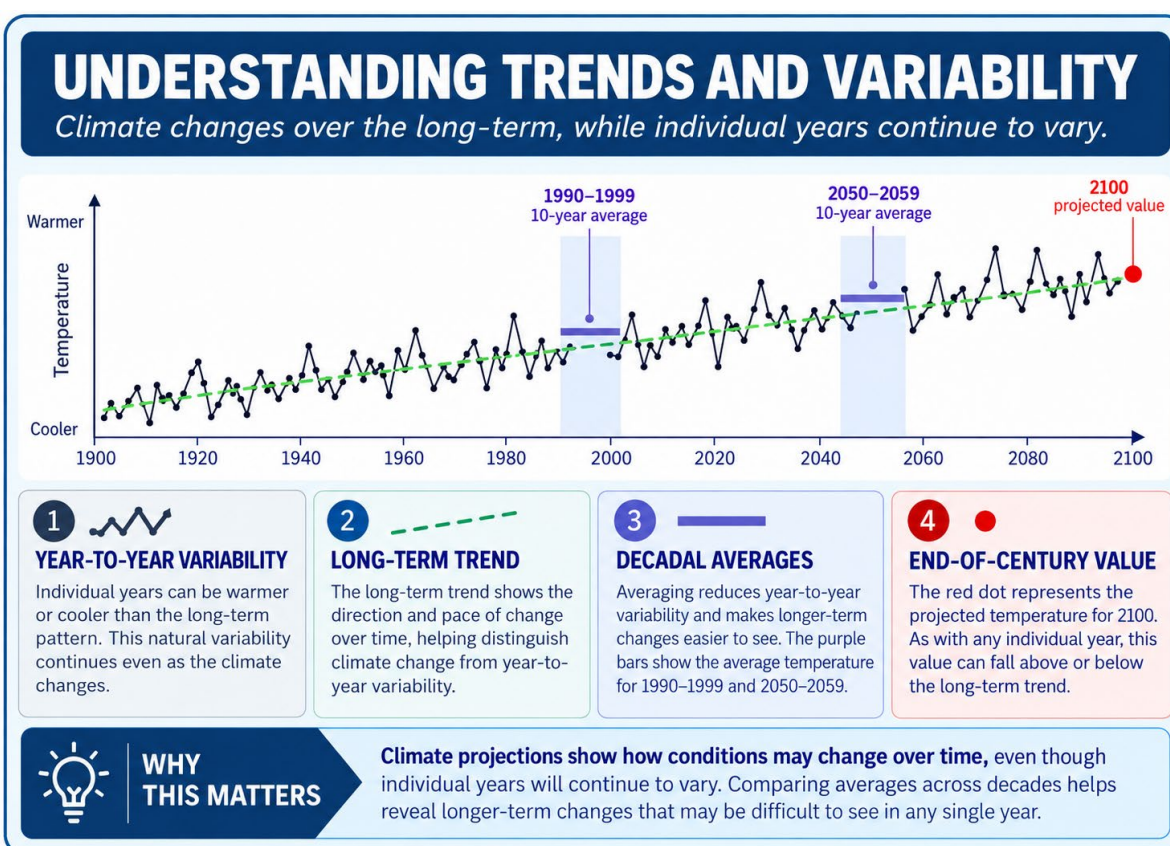


Figure 6. Understanding trends and variability. Climate projections show long-term changes while individual years continue to vary. Multi-year averages help distinguish the underlying climate trend from year-to-year variability.

Climate Indicators

Climate indicators available through the CRIS Explorer translate changes in temperature and precipitation into measures relevant to community planning. Indicators selected for this assessment include average and extreme temperatures, warm nights, heating and cooling degree days, annual and extreme precipitation, and the frequency of days exceeding specified temperature and precipitation thresholds (Figure 7).

Indicator definitions, thresholds, and calculations follow those used by the CRIS Explorer unless otherwise noted. Values are reported directly from the CRIS Explorer and were not independently recalculated from the underlying daily LOCA2 data.

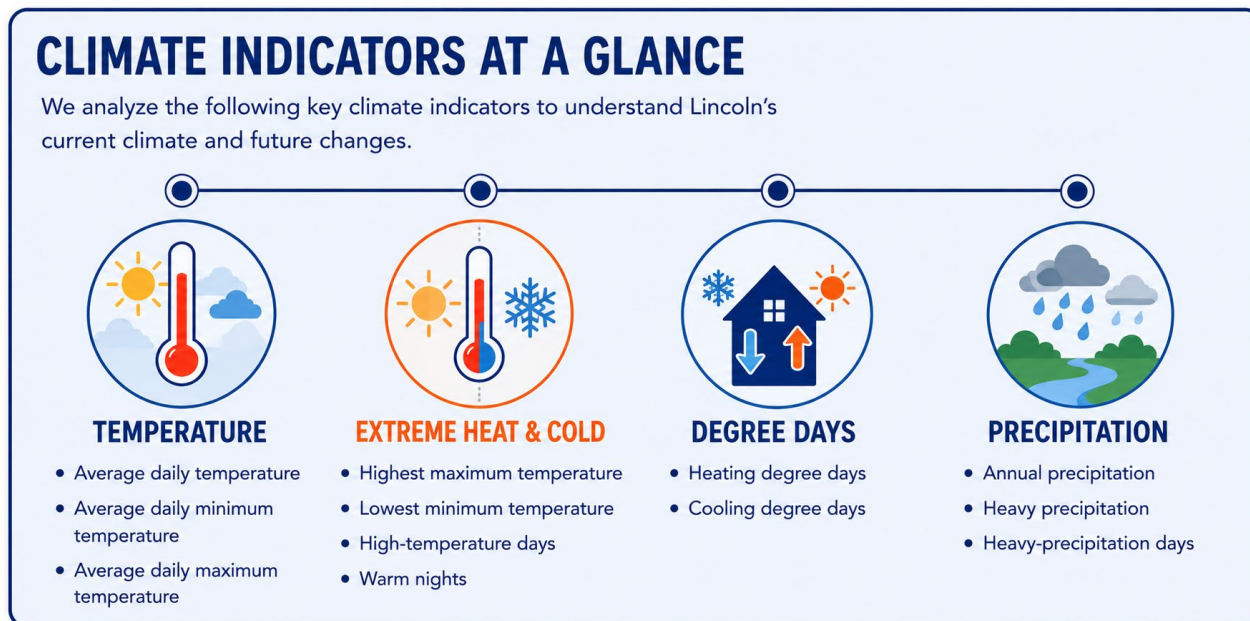


Figure 7. Climate indicators included in this assessment.

04 | PROJECTED CHANGES

Lincoln is projected to become substantially warmer during the 21st century. Average temperatures increase, extreme heat and warm nights become more common, and freezing and extremely cold temperatures become less frequent. Annual precipitation changes relatively little, while several measures of heavy precipitation increase in amount or frequency.

The following sections compare observed historical conditions with projected conditions for the middle and end of the century under SSP2-4.5.

Temperature

Lincoln is projected to experience substantially warmer conditions during the 21st century. Average temperatures increase, warm nights and extreme heat become more common, and freezing and extremely cold temperatures become less frequent.

ANNUAL TEMPERATURE

Lincoln's average daily temperature is projected to increase by about 5°F by mid-century and 8°F by the end of the century (Table 1). Average daily minimum and maximum temperatures also increase, indicating warming across both daytime and nighttime conditions.

Table 1. Projected Changes in Temperature (°F).

Climate Indicator	Observed (1990s)	Mid-Century (2050s)		End-of-Century (2100)	
		Mean	Max	Mean	Max
<i>Average Daily Temperature</i>	51	56	60	59	63
<i>Average Daily Minimum Temperature</i>	41	45	49	47	51
<i>Average Daily Maximum Temperature</i>	62	68	71	70	74
<i>Average Summertime (JJA) Temperature</i>	74	80	84	82	88
<i>Single Lowest Minimum Temperature</i>	-9	-10	-2	-3	10
<i>Single Highest Maximum Temperature</i>	99	106	112	109	114

Note: Historical values are nClimGrid observations for Lancaster County. Future values are LOCA2 ensemble projections under SSP2-4.5. Mean represents the average across the climate-model ensemble for that indicator, while Max represents the highest value among the models included in the ensemble for that indicator, under the SSP2-4.5 scenario.

WARM NIGHTS

Warm nights are projected to become substantially more common. Nights at or above 70°F increase from about 12 per year historically to 44 by mid-century and 63 by the end of the century (Table 2), reducing opportunities for overnight relief from daytime heat.

Table 2. Projected Frequency of Warm Nights (days per year).

Threshold	Observed (1990s)	Mid-Century (2050s)		End-of-Century (2100)	
		Mean	Max	Mean	Max
Daily Low Temperature $\geq 70^{\circ}\text{F}$	12	44	75	63	93
Daily Low Temperature $\geq 75^{\circ}\text{F}$	2	14	31	26	57
Daily Low Temperature $\geq 80^{\circ}\text{F}$	0	2	7	6	17

Note: Historical values are nClimGrid observations for Lancaster County. Future values are LOCA2 ensemble projections under SSP2-4.5. Mean represents the average across the climate-model ensemble for that indicator, while Max represents the highest value among the models included in the ensemble for that indicator, under the SSP2-4.5 scenario.

Planning Considerations: More frequent heat and warm nights may increase heat-related health risks, particularly for vulnerable populations, while affecting outdoor activities and workers, building cooling, energy demand, and opportunities for overnight relief from heat¹⁰.

EXTREME HEAT

Very hot days are projected to become substantially more frequent. Days with maximum temperatures of at least 100°F are projected to increase from about 1 day per year historically to 15 days by mid-century and 24 days by the end of the century (Table 3).

Table 3. Projected Frequency of Extreme Heat (days per year).

Threshold	Observed (1990s)	Mid-Century (2050s)		End-of-Century (2100)	
		Mean	Max	Mean	Max
Daily High Temperature $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$	1	15	33	24	69
Daily High Temperature $\geq 105^{\circ}\text{F}$	≤ 1	3	11	6	26
Daily High Temperature $\geq 110^{\circ}\text{F}$	0	0	2	1	5

Note: Historical values are nClimGrid observations for Lancaster County. Future values are LOCA2 ensemble projections under SSP2-4.5. Mean represents the average across the climate-model ensemble for that indicator, while Max

Planning Considerations. More frequent extreme heat may increase demand on cooling systems, utilities, emergency services, outdoor operations, and heat-response planning^{11,12}.

EXTREME COLD

Cold extremes are projected to become less frequent as winters warm. Days that remain at or below freezing, freezing nights, and extremely cold nights all become less frequent through the end of the century (Table 4).

Table 4. Projected Frequency of Cold Temperatures (days per year).

Threshold	Observed (1990s)	Mid-Century (2050s)		End-of-Century (2100)	
		Mean	Max	Mean	Max
<i>Daily High Temperature ≤32°F</i>	38	24	30	18	31
<i>Daily Low Temperature ≤32°F</i>	133	112	121	101	122
<i>Daily Low Temperature ≤28°F</i>	104	87	99	75	103
<i>Daily Low Temperature ≤0°F</i>	9	6	10	3	13

Note: Historical values are nClimGrid observations for Lancaster County. Future values are LOCA2 ensemble projections under SSP2-4.5. Mean represents the average across the climate-model ensemble for that indicator, while Max represents the highest value among the models included in the ensemble for that indicator, under the SSP2-4.5 scenario.

Planning Considerations: Fewer very cold days may reduce some winter-related risks and demands, although occasional severe cold will remain possible and continue to require preparedness¹³. Milder winters may also affect vegetation, pest survival, and the timing and duration of allergy seasons¹⁴.

HEATING AND COOLING DEMAND

Warming is projected to shift seasonal energy demand, with less need for winter heating and greater need for summer cooling (Table 5).

Heating degree days (HDD), a measure of the energy needed to heat buildings, are projected to decline as winters become milder. **Cooling degree days (CDD)**, a measure of the energy needed to cool buildings, are projected to increase as temperatures rise.

Table 5. Projected Heating and Cooling Degree Days (base 65°F).

Climate Indicator	Observed (1990s)	Mid-Century (2050s)		End-of-Century (2100)	
		Mean	Max	Mean	Max
<i>Heating Degree Days</i>	6,042	4,994	5,431	4,541	5,424
<i>Cooling Degree Days</i>	1,028	1,877	2,523	2,259	2,917

Note: Historical values are nClimGrid observations for Lancaster County. Future values are LOCA2 ensemble projections under SSP2-4.5. Mean represents the average across the climate-model ensemble for that indicator, while Max represents the highest value among the models included in the ensemble for that indicator, under the SSP2-4.5 scenario.

Planning Considerations: Lower heating demand and higher cooling demand may shift seasonal energy use, increase peak electricity demand, and affect building operations and long-term energy planning. Hotter summers and higher evapotranspiration may also increase seasonal water demand¹⁵.

Precipitation

Annual precipitation is projected to change relatively little through mid-century, with a modest increase by the end of the century (Table 6). Several measures of heavy precipitation show larger changes than annual totals.

ANNUAL AND HEAVY PRECIPITATION

Annual totals alone do not describe how precipitation falls. Similar annual amounts can result from many smaller events or fewer events that produce larger amounts over short periods. Several indicators suggest that heavier events may become more intense, including increases in the highest 1-day, 5-day, and 10-day precipitation totals (Table 6). The share of annual precipitation falling on days above the 95th percentile also increases, suggesting that more precipitation may fall during heavy rainfall events.

Not all measures of heavy precipitation show the same pattern. Ensemble means for precipitation falling on days above the 90th and 99th percentiles change relatively little, while precipitation above the 95th percentile increases. Maximum model values increase more substantially across all three measures, indicating that some models project considerably larger increases in heavy precipitation. Together, these results show that projected changes depend on both the measure used and the climate model.

Table 6. Projected Annual and Heavy Precipitation (inches).

Climate Indicator	Observed (1990s)	Mid-Century (2050s)		End-of-Century (2100)	
		Mean	Max	Mean	Max
Total Precipitation	30.99	30.54	34.04	32.18	40.94
Highest 1-Day Precipitation	2.16	2.56	3.04	2.63	4.04
Highest 5-Day Precipitation	3.62	4.14	4.98	4.44	7.62
Highest 10-Day Precipitation	4.68	5.21	6.07	5.55	9.23
Precipitation Above the 90th Percentile	10.80	10.56	13.32	11.28	21.01
Precipitation Above the 95th Percentile	6.10	7.08	9.25	7.34	16.28
Precipitation Above the 99th Percentile	2.60	2.55	4.15	2.56	8.08

Note: Historical values are nClimGrid observations for Lancaster County. Future values are LOCA2 ensemble projections under SSP2-4.5. Mean represents the average across the climate-model ensemble for that indicator, while Max represents the highest value among the models included in the ensemble for that indicator, under the SSP2-4.5

Planning Considerations: Relatively small changes in annual precipitation may mask changes in how rainfall occurs. More intense rainfall over one or several days may increase runoff and place additional stress on stormwater and drainage systems, transportation infrastructure, and other systems designed around historical precipitation patterns^{16,17,18}.

DAYS WITH HEAVY PRECIPITATION

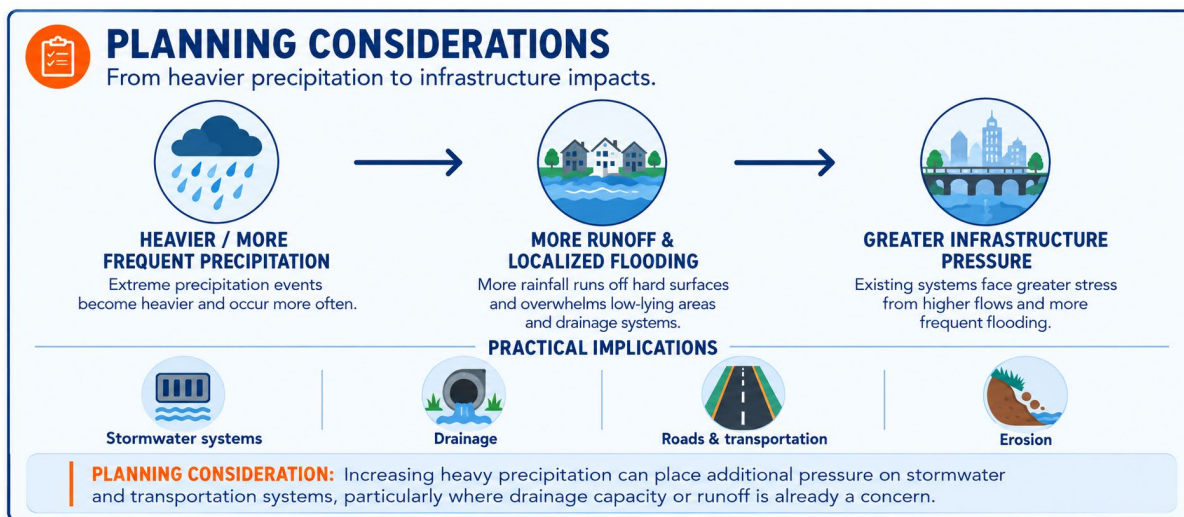
Days with heavy precipitation are projected to become more frequent overall, with the largest relative increases at higher precipitation thresholds (Table 7). Days with at least 1 inch of precipitation increase modestly, while events producing 3 inches or more remain rare but become several times more frequent than under historical conditions.

Planning Considerations: More frequent heavy rainfall events may increase the frequency of conditions that contribute to localized flooding, drainage problems, erosion, and transportation disruptions^{19, 20, 21}. Even relatively rare high-precipitation events may matter for infrastructure planning and emergency response.

Table 7. Projected Frequency of Heavy Precipitation (days per year).

Climate Indicator	Observed (1990s)	Mid-Century (2050s)		End-of-Century (2100)	
		Mean	Max	Mean	Max
Days with ≥ 1 inch precipitation	6.03	6.70	8.24	7.31	11.63
Days with ≥ 2 inches precipitation	0.56	1.22	1.91	1.08	2.78
Days with ≥ 3 inches precipitation	0.08	0.31	0.51	0.35	1.11

Note: Historical values are nClimGrid observations for Lancaster County. Future values are LOCA2 ensemble projections under SSP2-4.5. Mean represents the average across the climate-model ensemble for that indicator, while Max represents the highest value among the models included in the ensemble for that indicator, under the SSP2-4.5 scenario.



05 | CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Key Takeaways

Lincoln's climate is projected to become substantially warmer through the 21st century. Extreme heat and warm nights become more common, while freezing and extremely cold conditions become less frequent. These changes are also projected to shift seasonal energy demand, with less need for winter heating and greater need for summer cooling.

The precipitation story is more nuanced. Annual precipitation totals change relatively little, particularly through mid-century, while several measures of heavy precipitation increase in amount or frequency. This distinction matters for planning because changes in rainfall intensity and frequency can matter even when annual totals remain relatively stable.

Together, these projections describe a future climate that differs from the conditions around which many existing systems, practices, and expectations developed. The projections do not predict conditions in any individual year, nor do they eliminate Lincoln's natural year-to-year variability. Instead, they describe longer-term shifts in the range and frequency of conditions the city may experience.

From Climate Information to Local Decision-Making

Climate information is most useful when considered alongside local knowledge, community priorities, and other planning information (Figure 8). For Lincoln, projected changes can help inform decisions involving public health, infrastructure, water resources, stormwater and drainage, transportation, emergency management, energy use, landscapes, and other city services. Different decisions may require different climate information and different responses.

The time frame of a decision also matters. Infrastructure and other long-term investments may remain in place for decades, while operations, maintenance practices, programs, and other decisions may be adjusted more frequently. Considering the expected direction of change, the range of possible future conditions, and a decision's lifetime can help identify when additional information or adaptation may be useful.

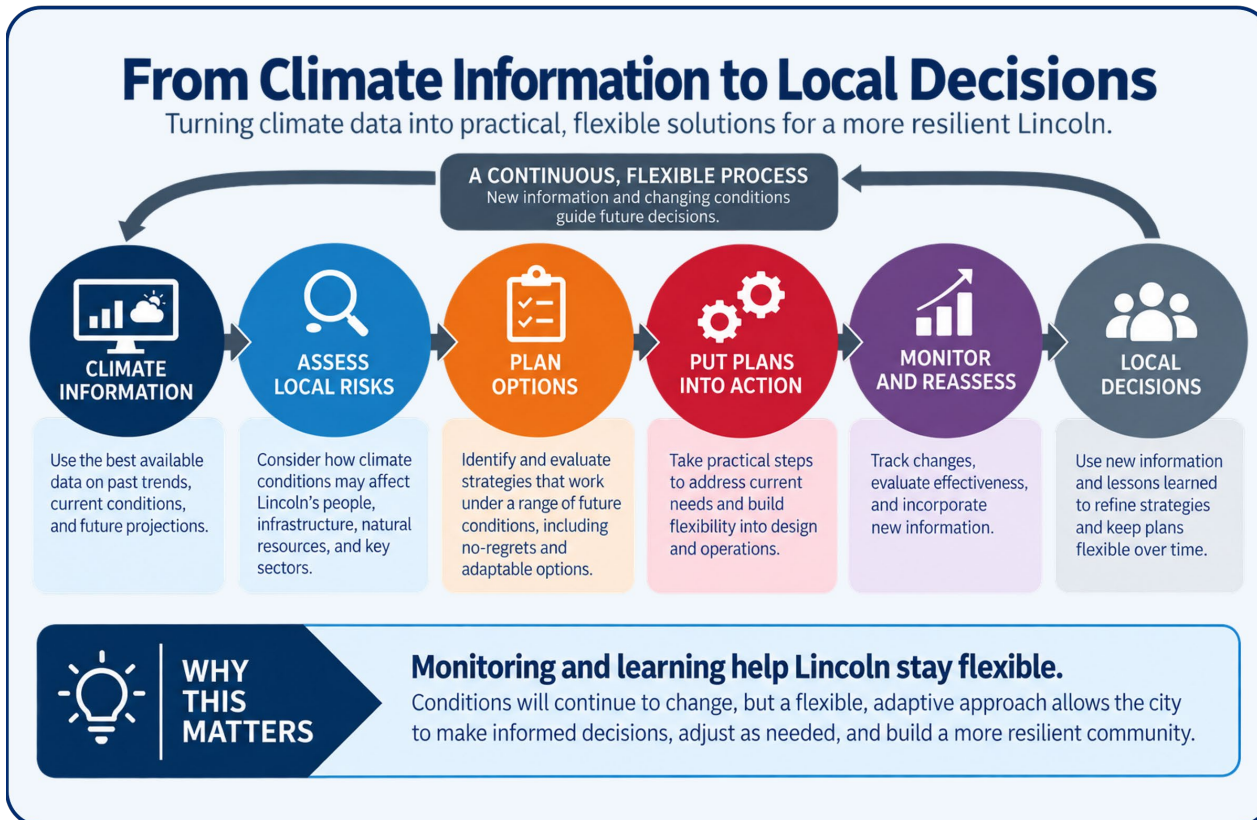


Figure 8. From climate information to local decisions. Climate information can support a continuous and flexible planning process that considers local risks, identifies and implements strategies, monitors changing conditions, and adjusts decisions as new information becomes available.

Next Steps

This assessment provides a foundation for incorporating updated climate information into Lincoln's planning and decision-making. Potential next steps include using the projections to evaluate existing plans and design standards, identifying systems or services particularly sensitive to changing climate conditions, and examining where additional analysis could help translate climate projections into specific planning thresholds or actions.

Future assessments can build on this work as climate models, observations, downscaling methods, and locally relevant indicators continue to evolve. Periodically revisiting the projections and continuing collaboration among City departments, climate information providers, community partners, and other users can help ensure that future analyses remain focused on the conditions and thresholds most relevant to local decisions.

Additional Climate Indicators

This assessment focuses primarily on climate indicators available through the Climate Resilience Information System (CRIS) Explorer. Other climate characteristics may also be important for Lincoln and could be evaluated in future updates. These indicators can provide additional information about the timing, duration, and combined effects of climate conditions relevant to local planning.

- **Seasonal Precipitation** – Changes in precipitation amounts and patterns by season, providing additional detail beyond the annual precipitation analyzed in this assessment.
- **Heat Index** – Changes in the frequency and intensity of conditions that combine high temperatures and humidity, complementing the air-temperature thresholds evaluated in this assessment.
- **Heat Waves** – Changes in the frequency, duration, and severity of prolonged periods of extreme heat.
- **Frost-Free Season** – Changes in the timing of the last spring freeze and first fall freeze and the resulting length of the frost-free season.
- **Cold Waves** – Changes in the frequency, duration, and severity of prolonged periods of extreme cold.
- **Dry Streaks** – Changes in the frequency and duration of consecutive dry days.
- **Wind and Wind Gusts** – Changes in average wind speeds and the frequency and intensity of strong wind and wind-gust events.

Note: These indicators would require additional analysis beyond the CRIS Explorer results used in this assessment.

An Assessment That Can Evolve

Climate science and climate information will continue to improve. New observations will document how Lincoln's climate is changing, while new models, datasets, and analytical tools will provide additional information about future conditions. Future updates can incorporate these advances as well as additional indicators that have become important to City planning.

Local experience is also an important part of that process. City departments, utilities, emergency managers, community organizations, businesses, and residents observe how weather and climate affect Lincoln in ways that climate datasets alone cannot capture. Combining that knowledge with climate information can help identify emerging concerns and determine where additional analysis would be most useful.

The Bottom Line

Lincoln's climate will continue to vary year to year, with hot and cold years, wet and dry periods, and occasional extremes. Against that variability, the longer-term direction is toward warmer conditions, more frequent extreme heat and warm nights, fewer very cold days, and changes in heavy precipitation.

Climate alone will not define the future. How Lincoln experiences these changes will also depend on its people, infrastructure, water resources, landscapes, services, and decisions made over time. This assessment provides information that can help the City prepare for changing conditions while retaining the flexibility to respond as new information becomes available.

SOURCES AND NOTES

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