

Climate change will keep getting worse. Our response won't cut it.

BY SARAH KAPLAN

2021 was bad for the planet. 2022 will be worse. This sad inevitability of our warming world has become undeniable: Since humans continue to pump carbon into the atmosphere, global average temperatures will continue to rise, and weather disasters will continue to become more extreme. People should be prepared for every heat wave, wildfire and storm to set records, for every summer to be hotter than the one before.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has found that the world's window of opportunity to meet its most ambitious climate goal — limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels — is closing. In 2022, the United Nations panel will focus on how humanity can adjust to the changes we've caused and map out our remaining options for averting further catastrophes. The continuing La Niña climate pattern, which tends to exacerbate drought in the American West and amplify storms in Southeast Asia, will test governments' abilities to respond to disasters and force people to reconsider where and how they live in climate-vulnerable areas. After the Glasgow climate summit delivered lackluster results for hard-hit nations, the developing world will be pushing even harder for rich countries to promise more financial support at November's meeting in Egypt.

In the United States — the top source of greenhouse gases currently in the atmosphere — the success of climate efforts could depend on whether Democrats implement their agenda, particularly the imperiled Build Back Better program. With the party facing an uphill battle in the midterm elections, this is their best chance to spend big on upgrading infrastructure, reducing emissions from buildings and switching the electrical grid to renewable energy. If these measures deliver the new jobs and lifestyle improvements advocates have promised, that could build support for the programs even if power in Washington changes hands.



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READ THE TEXT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

- no.1** What will be the consequences of increased carbon production in 2022?
- no.2** What is the world's climate goal for this year? How likely is it to meet this requirement?
- no.3** What will be the main focus of the UN in 2022?
- no.4** What are the two extreme climate patterns caused by La Niña?
- no.5** How will La Niña affect governments and people all over the world?
- no.6** What will be the agenda of developing countries in Egypt in November 2022?
- no.7** Which country is the main greenhouse gas producer?
- no.8** How can the US reduce their greenhouse gas emission?

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