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Next update: Winter 2020

This data is published by the Sustainable Business and Communities Team of Kent County Council

You can contact us on KES@kent.gov.uk

Climate change increases the risks from severe weather events to above current levels. Monitoring, adapting and becoming more resilient to these risks is a key part of meeting the requirements of the 2008 Climate Change Act. In 2009 a Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) for Kent revealed the direct cost to the county over the previous 14 years from weather events was at least £35 million.

Key facts

With the development of the Kent's Severe Weather Impacts Monitoring System (SWIMS) in response to LCLIP, local services can provide data for how they are affected by different weather events. As of July 2020, 146 (active) users were registered, and these services and organisations have recorded 76 events with a direct financial impact of £18.6 million since 2012. These events consist of:

- 8 Low Temperatures
- 11 flood events
- 15 Rainfall
- 20 Storm events
- 14 Gales
- 7 Heatwaves
- 1 Drought

Of the 76 events logged, Flood events have the highest total costs (£15,447,390.00), whilst low temperature events have the highest average cost per event. Flooding over the 2013/2014 winter period is the reason for these years being so costly.

Latest trends

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total to date:
Number of events	14	15	6	4	7	7	11	4	64
Total costs	£852,388	£4,140,429	£2,950,683	£3,527	£308,411	£54,811	£22,877	£2,325	£18,687,680.00

Further reading

Climate Change Act 2008 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

Local Climate Impacts Profile https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/24595/LCLIP-summary-report-1996-2010.pdf

Data sources

KCC (2009): A Local Climate Impacts Profile for Kent (LCLIP): A summary of impacts from past severe weather event 1996 – 2010, Kent County Council, Sustainable Business and Communities
https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/24595/LCLIP-summary-report-1996-2010.pdf

SWIMS (2018): Severe Weather Impacts Monitoring System, Monitoring the impacts of severe weather 2018, KCC https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/93162/Monitoring-the-Impacts-of-Severe-Weather-2018.pdf

SWIMS (2015): Severe Weather Impacts Monitoring System, Monitoring the impacts of severe weather 2015: http://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/55572/Monitoring-the-impacts-of-severe-weather-2015.pdf

SWIMS (2012): Severe Weather Impacts Monitoring System, Monitoring the impacts of severe weather: http://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/11908/LCLIP-Summary-Report.pdf