



Written by [James Murphy](#) on May 19, 2022

NOAA Study Claims That Cleaner Air May Be Causing Increase in Atlantic Hurricanes

We just can't win when it comes to climate change.

A new study conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has concluded that cleaner air over Europe and the United States may be leading to an increase in tropical cyclone (TC) activity in the Atlantic Ocean.

The [study](#), published on May 11 in *Science Advances*, concludes that "decreases in aerosols over Europe and the United States have contributed to significant decreases in TCs over the Southern Hemisphere as well as increases in TCs over the North Atlantic."



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According to the study, aerosol pollution — which is made up of particulate matter such as dust, dirt, soot, and smoke — has decreased drastically in Europe and the U.S. since approximately 1980. Conversely, an increase in the same particulate matter in the Southern Hemisphere and East Asia is leading to fewer tropical cyclones in that area of the world.

"Over the past 40 years, anthropogenic aerosols have been substantially decreasing over Europe and the United States owing to pollution control measures, whereas they have increased in South and East Asia because of the economic and industrial growth in these regions," the study's abstract states.

"In this study, we reveal that the decreases in aerosols over Europe and the United States have contributed to significant decreases in TCs over the Southern Hemisphere as well as increases in TCs over the North Atlantic, whereas the increases in aerosols in South and East Asia have exerted substantial decreases in TCs over the western North Pacific."

NOAA scientist Hiroyuki Murakami, the author of the paper, claims that the aerosol pollution has masked some of the worst effects of global warming. The absence of those airborne particulates allows the jet stream to move further north, which reduces shear factors that have mitigated TCs in the Atlantic Ocean.

It's a good news/bad news scenario, according to Murakami.

"Air pollution is a big environmental risk to human health and we have made great strides in reducing health risks by reducing particulate air pollution," Murakami said. But reducing air pollution does not always decrease the risk of hazards from tropical cyclones.

The study postulates that the effect of aerosol cooling may be one-third to one-half the effect of warming from greenhouse gases, but is likely twice as effective in reducing TC intensity. Should the aerosol activity remain low, as it is now, and greenhouse gas emissions continue to grow, the resulting warmer water will lead to greater hurricane activity in the Atlantic Ocean.

"That's why the Atlantic has gone pretty much crazy since the mid-90s and why it was so quiet in the



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70s and 80s,” said Jim Kossin, a climate and hurricane specialist with the risk assessment company Climate Service, Inc.

Meanwhile, in the Pacific Ocean, high amounts of aerosol pollution from Asian nations, particularly China, have kept TC activity 14 percent lower in the 21st century.

This new study appears to fly in the face of [another study](#) that NOAA contributed to, which claims there has really been no large-scale increase in hurricane activity over the last 170 years. That study shows that any perceived increase in hurricanes can be largely explained by a substantial increase in monitoring capability.

“Due to changes in observing practices, severe inhomogeneities exist in this database, complicating the assessment of long-term changes. In particular, there has been a substantial increase in monitoring capacity over the past 170 years, so that the probability that a HU (Atlantic Hurricane) is observed is substantially higher in the present than early in the record,” claims the study from researchers at NOAA, Princeton, the University of Iowa, and Utah State.

Of course, the answer to more severe hurricanes is not to place more particulate matter (pollution) into the atmosphere.

“Air pollution is a major killer, so reducing emissions is critical no matter what happens with the number of cyclones,” said Kristie Ebi, a public health professor at the University of Washington.

So, what is the solution? Just live with bigger and more frequent hurricanes? It is possible that the conclusion of this study — that certain particulate matter in the atmosphere may lead to fewer hurricanes — could lead to a risky globalist [geoengineering scheme](#) touted by the United Nations, in which reflective aerosol sulfate material is released into the atmosphere. In theory, the reflective sulfate material would then mimic the way that volcanic ash clouds cool the planet.

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