

North American Environmental Hotspots: Wildfires, Heatwaves, and Policy Shifts

Environment · Answer Key · 17 Questions

1. Which US state recorded its warmest June on record in 2024, alongside significant heatwaves and major wildfires?

- A) California
- B) New Mexico**
- C) Texas
- D) Arizona

2. Canada recently proposed new regulations to reduce methane emissions from which specific sector, aiming for a 50% reduction by 2030 from 2019 levels?

- A) Agriculture
- B) Oil and Gas
- C) Landfills**
- D) Industrial Manufacturing

3. In June 2024, the U.S. EPA proposed to repeal key amendments to the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) that were finalized in which year?

- A) 2012
- B) 2020
- C) 2023
- D) 2024**

4. The South Fork and Salt fires in New Mexico, which caused significant destruction in June 2024, were primarily attributed to what ignition source?

- A) Human activity
- B) Arson
- C) Lightning strike**
- D) Spontaneous combustion

5. Bill C-226, which recently became law in Canada, aims to address environmental racism by requiring the federal government to develop what within two years?

- A) A carbon tax rebate program
- B) A national strategy on environmental racism**
- C) New emission reduction targets
- D) A renewable energy infrastructure plan

6. NOAA reported that June 2024 featured record-breaking heat and several billion-dollar weather disasters. How many such disasters were confirmed in the U.S. during June 2024?

- A) Two
- B) Three
- C) Four**
- D) Five

7. The Gemini Solar Project, one of the largest solar farms under construction in the U.S. in 2024, is located in which state?

- A) California
- B) Arizona
- C) Nevada**
- D) New Mexico

8. A severe thunderstorm in the Texas Panhandle in early June 2024 dropped a hailstone that could set a new state record. What was its approximate diameter?

- A) 4 inches
- B) 5.25 inches
- C) 6.25 inches**
- D) 7.5 inches

9. The proposed Regulations Respecting the Reduction in the Release of Methane (Waste Sector) in Canada aim to reduce methane emissions from landfills by approximately what percentage by 2030 compared to 2019 levels?

- A) 25%
- B) 30%
- C) 50%**
- D) 75%

10. Which US environmental regulation, concerning emissions from coal- and oil-fired power plants, did the EPA propose to repeal certain 2024 amendments to in June 2025?

- A) Clean Air Act
- B) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
- C) Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS)**
- D) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

11. In June 2024, a significant heatwave affected parts of the Western United States, Mexico, and Eastern Canada, with temperatures reaching Climate Shift Index (CSI) levels of 5 in some regions. A CSI level of 5 indicates that human-caused climate change made the heat at least how many times more likely?

- A) Two times
- B) Three times
- C) Five times**
- D) Ten times

12. The Correll Fire, which began on June 1, 2024, in San Joaquin County, California, burned how many acres?

- A) 7,000
- B) 10,500
- C) 14,000**
- D) 17,500

13. Canada's Bill C-226, which received Royal Assent in June 2024, requires the federal government to develop a national strategy to address environmental racism and advance environmental justice within how many years?

- A) One year
- B) Two years**
- C) Three years
- D) Four years

14. Tropical Storm Alberto, the first named storm of the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, made landfall in Mexico on June 20, 2024, and brought significant rainfall to some communities in which U.S. state?

- A) Florida
- B) Louisiana
- C) Texas**
- D) California

15. The EPA released its 2024-2027 Climate Adaptation Plan on June 20, 2024. Which new office did the EPA launch in March 2024 to support efforts in building resilience to climate change?

- A) Office of Climate Science
- B) Office of Environmental Justice
- C) Office of Climate Adaptation and Sustainability**
- D) Office of Sustainable Infrastructure

16. In June 2024, widespread flash flooding occurred in parts of northeastern Minnesota and northern Wisconsin due to slow-moving heavy rain and thunderstorms. This event ranked as the third highest number of flash flood warnings issued by NWS Duluth since what year?

- A) 1980
- B) 1990**
- C) 2000
- D) 2010

17. The SunZia Wind Project, slated to be one of the largest wind energy developments in the world, spans which two U.S. states and is expected to generate over 3,000 MW of electricity?

- A) Texas and Oklahoma
- B) New Mexico and Arizona**
- C) Wyoming and Montana
- D) Colorado and Utah