



KNMI'14: new climate scenarios for the Netherlands

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In May 2014, KNMI presented the KNMI'14 climate scenarios: four discrete scenarios for future climate change in the Netherlands. Compared to the previous generation of national climate scenarios issued in 2006, the new scenarios are based on a much larger ensemble of climate model simulations and on a more advanced way of exploring the dominant uncertainties at the regional scale. Extensive use of in-house modelling tools and international collaboration in research programs have allowed a marked extension of the types of variables included, the spatial detail, the role of natural variability at various time scales, and the ability to generate “future weather” images that are consistent with the scenarios.

The KNMI'14 scenarios basically consist of the four combinations of two possible values for the global temperature increase, ‘Moderate’ and ‘Warm’, and two possible changes in the air circulation pattern, ‘Low value’ and ‘High value’. Together they span the likely changes in the climate of the Netherlands according to the newest insights. By providing these KNMI'14 scenarios KNMI offers a guide for evaluating the consequences of climate change and for developing options and strategies for climate adaptation. They will enable users to include climate change when making decisions to ensure that the Netherlands will have a safe and sustainable future.

This presentation will briefly describe scenario development, illustrate how users guided this process, and present some first feedback based on user applications.

Website: www.climatescenarios.nl