

Changing The Game

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Could global warming steal home field advantage from cold weather teams?

Crunching The Numbers

Global warming is a serious problem that will have wide-ranging effects on our world, from more severe heat waves to the spread of infectious diseases. But could global warming also affect the gridiron? Cold weather teams have won over 65 percent of their home games played after Halloween against warm weather teams in recent years, but rising temperatures could soon threaten this home field advantage.

Average winter temperatures at weather stations near 13 cold weather teams' stadiums are already on the rise. Our analysis examined November-January temperatures at these weather stations over the last seven football seasons, and compared those temperatures to the average November-January temperatures from 1971-2000.

Findings

All 13 cold weather football stadiums saw winter temperatures rise over the past seven seasons, compared to the previous 30 years.



Temperature data was obtained from the National Climatic Data Center, which is part of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Recommendations

We need to dramatically cut global warming pollution to avoid the worst effects—on football and the health of our planet. That means Congress must act to cut emissions at least 15 to 20 percent by 2020 and at least 80 percent by 2050.