

In the Columbia Basin, average annual temperatures are likely to increase by 2.1- 3.4 degrees Celsius by the middle of the century.

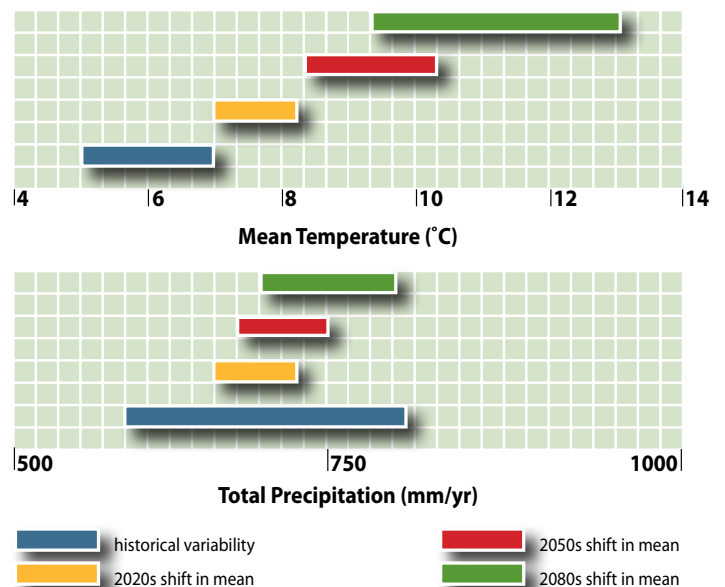
Climate change is a significant shift in the average climatic conditions over an extended period of time (typically decades or longer). Climate change is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere, and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

Climate variability is the range of fluctuation around long-term average climate conditions. It refers to variations in the state of the climate on all temporal and spatial scales beyond that of individual weather events.

Climate change is attributed to human activities altering atmospheric composition; whereas, *climate variability* is attributed to natural causes.

Climate change can include changes in any of the following:

- **Precipitation:** Global Climate Models predict an increase in precipitation of 1-6% by the middle of the century; this is extremely variable from location to location.
- **Temperature:** In the Columbia Basin, average annual temperatures are likely to increase by 2.1- 3.4 degrees Celsius by the middle of the century.
- **Increased occurrence of extreme weather events.**
- **Increased variability:** Variability in temperature and precipitation is expected to increase in the Columbia Basin. This graph projects the possibility of dramatically higher average temperatures at the end of the century.



For references and more information visit:
www.cbt.org/climatechange
www.cses.washington.edu/cig
www.ipcc.ch