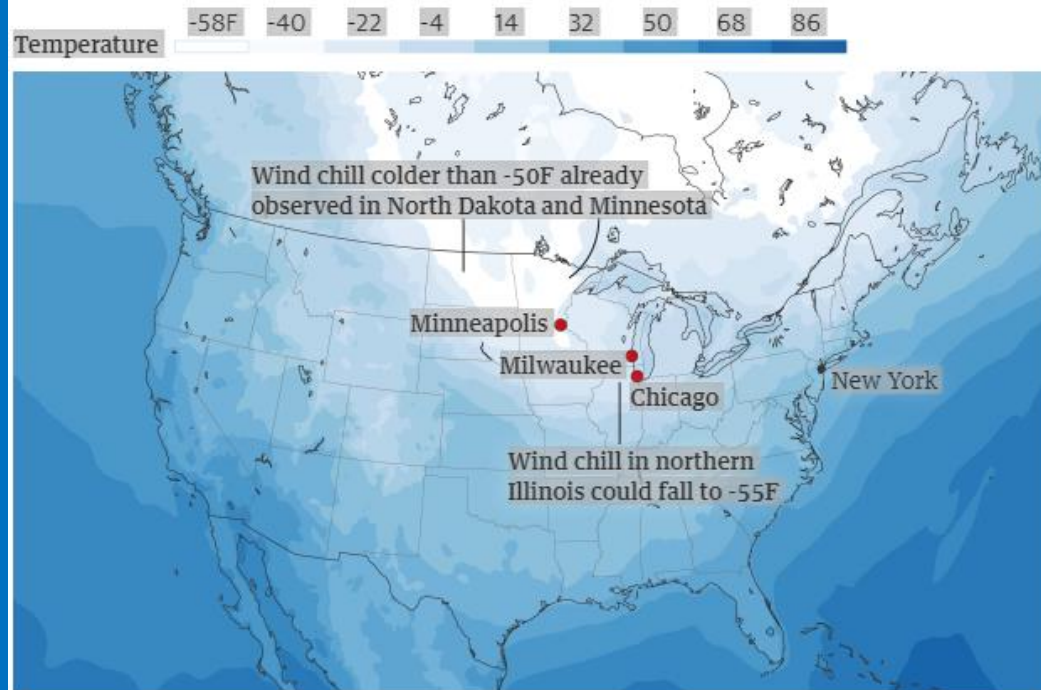


Weather and Climate items –
sourced from January 2019 Media

Polar vortex blasts US with life-threatening cold

Warming shelters open in Midwest as Chicago area sees temperatures drop to -50F (-46C), with snow possible in southern states

Temperatures in the next 24 hours are set to hit record lows



Guardian graphic. Source: Climate Prediction Center - NOAA. Data as of 4.58am, 29 January 2019

A blast of arctic-chilled air from the polar vortex brought dangerous, record-setting cold to a wide swath of the eastern US on Tuesday, stretching from the Dakotas through Maine, with snow expected as far south as Alabama and Georgia.

Cities in the Midwest opened warming shelters as temperatures plummeted well below zero degrees Fahrenheit (-17.8C). Regional governments closed hundreds of schools and airlines canceled more than 1,000 flights, including many to Atlanta days before the Super Bowl.

The Midwest will be the hardest-hit area, with a life-threatening wind chill bringing temperatures down as low as minus 50F (minus 46C) in the Chicago area and northern Illinois by Tuesday evening, the National Weather Service (NWS) reported.

Further Reading: [Met. Office Blog](#)

Source: The Guardian 29/01/2019

The List

The coldest places across Britain

Britain's coldest towns and villages have been revealed by an insurance company, based on weather records for 2013-17 from each region of the UK. Dalwhinnie in the Scottish Highlands recorded an average winter temperature of -2.39°C , which was 4.46°C colder than the average for the whole of Scotland.

Dalwhinnie, Highlands (Scotland)	-2.39°C
Alston, Cumbria (North West)	-0.65°C
Bala, Gwynedd (Wales)	0.64°C
Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire (South West)	1.69°C
Hexham, Northumberland (North East)	0.22°C
Settle, North Yorkshire (Yorks and Humber)	0.17°C
Banbury, Oxfordshire (South East)	1.66°C
Omagh, Co Tyrone (Northern Ireland)	0.99°C
Chelmorton, Derbyshire (East Midlands)	0.47°C
Leek, Staffordshire (West Midlands)	0.74°C

SOURCE: DIRECT LINE INSURANCE

Left- an interesting snippet from the **i** January 27th 2019. Ansty clocks an average winter temperature of 6.3°C – positively barmy when compared to these figures!

Right- More worries about the inexorable rise in the level of Carbon Dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere.
Source: The Times. January 26th 2019

Is there anything that can be done?

CO₂ levels heading for record rise

Sebastian Mann

The Met Office predicts there will be a near-record rise in the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere this year.

Scientists believe that build-up of the key greenhouse gas linked to global warming could be more than last year because of changing weather patterns in the Pacific, which would reduce the ability of forests or grasslands to absorb excess carbon. Combined with rising emissions from human activity such as burning fossil fuels, experts expect one of the largest rises in the concentration of the gas in 62 years of measurements.

Richard Betts, of the Met Office Hadley Centre, said that a 30 per cent increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide had been recorded since 1958. Average concentrations of carbon dioxide are forecast to be 411 parts per million (ppm) this year, compared with about 315ppm when measurements began at Mauna Loa in Hawaii in 1958.

Professor Betts said: "Each year's [level] is higher than the last. This will keep happening until humans stop adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere."