Underwater: Rising Seas and the Risks to U.S. Coastal Property
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Mapping Chronic Inundation

1. Tide gauge records

2. Digital Elevation Models

3. Sea level rise projections
Data provided by third parties through the Zillow Transaction and Assessment Dataset (ZTRAX). More information on accessing the data can be found at [https://www.zillow.com/ztrax](https://www.zillow.com/ztrax).
Value at risk
A National Overview

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Interactive map: Homes at Risk in New Jersey by 2100

US Coastal Property at Risk from Rising Seas

By the Union of Concerned Scientists

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At risk from rising seas

Click the buttons to see what’s at risk from chronic inundation (high-tide flooding that occurs 26 or more times per year).

In 2045

- Homes
- Value
- Population
- Tax Base

In 2100

- Homes
- Value
- Population
- Tax Base

This scenario assumes a high rate of sea level rise caused by a continued rise in global carbon emissions and an increasing loss of land ice. In this scenario, global average sea level is projected to rise about 2 feet by 2045 and about 6.5 feet by 2100.

Homes at risk in New Jersey

By 2100, 250,817 of today’s homes are at risk of becoming chronically inundated in New Jersey.

Today those homes are worth a collective $107,122,875,454, house 375,727 people, and contribute $1,650,486,004 to the local property tax base.
Interactive map: Homes at Risk in Nags Head, NC by 2045

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Town by town

At risk from rising seas

Click the buttons to see what’s at risk from chronic inundation (high-tide flooding that occurs 26 or more times per year).

In 2045

Homes | Value | Population | Tax Base

In 2100

Homes | Value | Population | Tax Base

This scenario assumes a high rate of sea level rise caused by a continued rise in global carbon emissions and an increasing loss of land ice. In this scenario, global average sea level is projected to rise about 2 feet by 2045 and about 6.5 feet by 2100.

Homes at risk in Nags Head, NC

By 2045, 1,165 of today’s homes are at risk of becoming chronically inundated in Nags Head. This represents 13% of the community’s homes.

Today those homes are worth a collective $498,322,500, house an estimated 1,316 people, and contribute $3,103,656 to the local property tax base.

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What's at risk from rising seas

Click the buttons to see what's at risk from chronic inundation (high-tide flooding that occurs 26 or more times per year).

In 2045
- Homes
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- Homes
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Note that these projections do not include future development or new homes; they capture only today's homes and current property values.

With a moderate rate of sea level rise

With a more moderate rate of sea level rise, 140,000 homes are still at risk of chronic inundation by 2035 and more than 3.2 million by 2100.

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Homes in the Balance

This map shows the number of homes in coastal communities that could avoid chronic inundation by the end of the century if the world takes aggressive action on climate change and the loss of land-based ice is limited.

It shows that more than two million of today’s homes—collectively worth $782 billion today—could potentially be spared from frequent and disruptive high-tide flooding if we act quickly to reduce the carbon emissions that cause global warming.

The map shows the difference between a high rate of sea level rise, associated with a continued increase in carbon emissions and ice melt; and a low rate of sea level rise, which is possible if nations successfully limit future warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius (the goal set by the Paris Climate Agreement) and ice loss is limited. By 2100, the higher rate would lead to about 6.5 feet of global average sea level rise, the lower rate about 1.5 feet.

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Chronic flooding intersects with poverty

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Our Challenges and Choices

- Communicate risk accurately and clearly
- Realign policies and market incentives to reflect risk
- Enact bold new policies for a resilient future
Bold, Equitable Policy Responses
Thank you. Any questions?

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