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Estimating Economic Damage from Climate Change in the United States.

Global warming will intensify regional inequality in the United States, according to a revolutionary new economic assessment of the phenomenon.

Climate change will aggravate economic inequality in the United States, essentially transferring wealth from poor counties in the Southeast and the Midwest to well-off communities in the Northeast and on the coasts, according to the most detailed economic assessment of the phenomenon ever conducted.

The study, published Thursday in Science, simulates the costs of global warming in excruciating detail, modeling every day of weather in every U.S. county during the 21st century. It finds enormous disparities in how rising temperatures will affect American communities: Texas, Florida, and the Deep South will bleed income in the broiling heat, while some chillier northern states gain moderate benefits.

"We are really sure the South is going to get hammered," says Solomon Hsiang, one of the authors of the paper and a professor of public policy at the University of California, Berkeley. "The South is really, really negatively affected by climate change, much more so than the North. That wasn't something we were expecting going in."

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THE ATLANTIC

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