

Visualization of climate information

Examples from the Netherlands

Bernadet Overbeek, KNMI

**Aim: to make people aware of what
a future climate in the Netherlands
might look like, including the
uncertainties therein**





If I just explain the facts, they get it, right?



The problem isn't that people haven't been given enough facts. It's that they haven't been given facts in the right ways.

If facts attack the values of a group, they're likely to become defense.

Do: Look for shared values - make a real connection to your public.



Do's for effective communication

Dahlstrom (2014)

1. **Close the distance**
2. **Provide an action perspective**

Moser (2014, 2017) argues:

3. **Focus shift to adaptation**
(‘preparedness’ for climate change) instead of
only mitigation of climate change.

& visualize...



Examples from KNMI

- 1) Generic KNMI climate scenarios – tool for adaptation
- 2) Facts & figures in 'my backyard' – close the distance – tool for adaptation
- 3) Future weather – close the distance
- 4) Climate information in the weather forecast - close the distance
- 5) Online magazines - close the distance
- 6) Storylines – provide action perspective



Generic KNMI climate scenarios

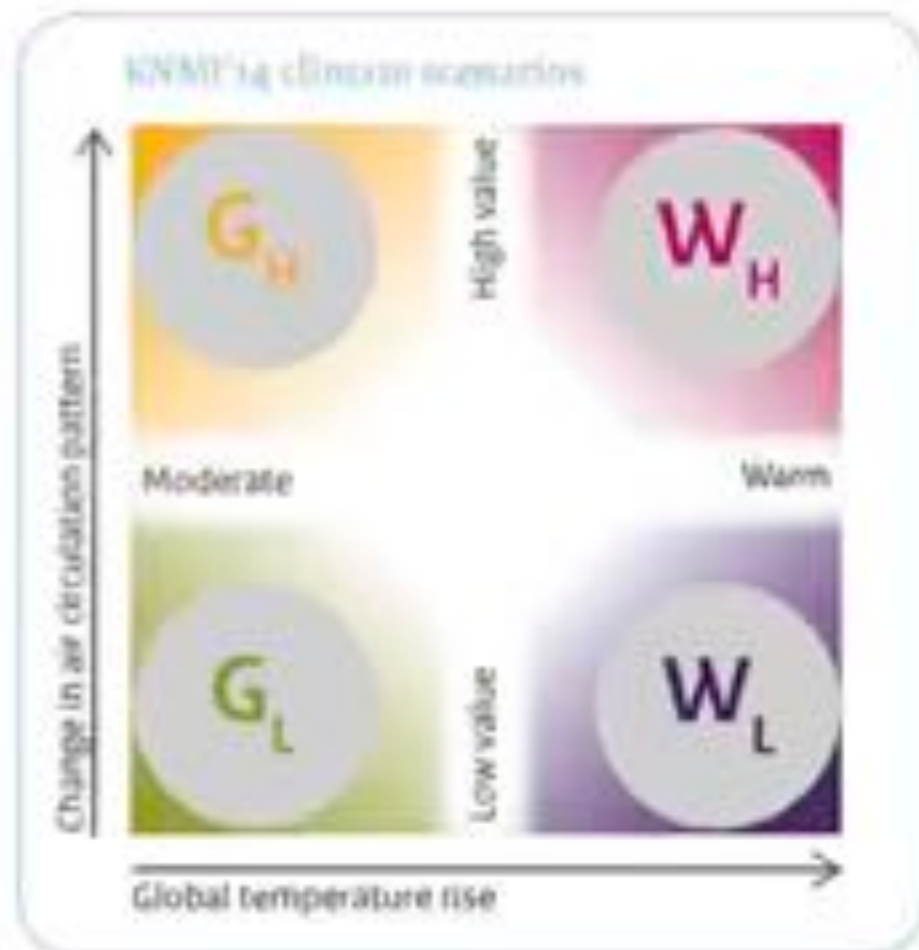
Colors are intuitive:

G_L : low temperature rise & limited drying in summers

G_H : higher temperature rise & dry summers

W_H : higher temperature rise then yellow & dryer summers

W_L : high temperature rise (red) & enough rain in summers (blue)



Example 1

Folder policy makers



-  The temperature in the Netherlands will continue to rise. Heat waves will be going. The number of wet winter days decreases. The number of warm summer days increases, as does the likelihood of heat waves. Temperature differences between the coast and inland will increase in summer and reduce in winter.
-  In general precipitation will increase but the likelihood of heavy rain showers with thunder storms will not increase. Increased sea surface T_s and M_s indicate a decrease of the total precipitation in winter.
-  The rate of sea level change will increase and greatly depends on global temperature rise. The rise will force it to an extent by waves related to storms. By both the sea level and the storm occurrence we see the increases higher. Also, some storms that will continue to rise.
-  Changes in wind patterns occur. The number of year with westerly or westerly wind directions in summer will decrease in all seasons. An increase in the sea surface will mean change in the air circulation pattern. Thus T_s and M_s increases also show more westerly winds in winter.
-  Solar radiation has slightly increased during the last decades, partly due to the reduction in air pollution. Also, clouds seem to have become more transparent, allowing an increase of solar radiation under cloudy conditions. In the T_s and M_s scenarios a small decrease in cloudiness occurs in future summers due to more heating in winter.
-  The number of days with fog will decrease and usually will further increase. This is affected mainly due to the reduction in air pollution. The location trend in visibility will not be as strong as in the former years. There are considerable regional differences within the Netherlands too, especially along the coast that shows.

The process of sea level rise is currently going. The number of storm surges will allow little change, but rising sea level means increased vulnerability and coastal protection measures.

The number of attractive locations for sea level rise is limited.

Increased water level will increase drainage and flooding of the area. More and more rivers.

With an increase in sea level rise, the number of storm surges will increase. The number of storm surges will increase. The number of storm surges will increase.

Long periods of drought can lead to water shortages, water quality issues and increased fire risk. This will contribute to sea water intrusion.

Sea level rise will lead to an increase in the number of storm surges. This will lead to an increase in the number of storm surges.

Energy generation from wind turbines will decrease, but will increase for an increasing. The number of wind turbines will increase.

Temperatures will continue to rise, but increase in winter. The number of storm surges will increase. The number of storm surges will increase.

Increased sea level rise will increase the number of storm surges. This will lead to an increase in the number of storm surges.





Example 1

Maps of multiple scenarios

Summer precipitation: It's getting dryer, or not

1981-2010

Scenario WH
2050

Scenario WL
2050





Regional translations of climate scenarios

Facts & figures in 'your own backyard'

- Pictures of the own region
- Observed changes
- Future scenarios
- Effects



Region Veluwe



Region Utrecht



Region Flevoland



Region Amsterdam

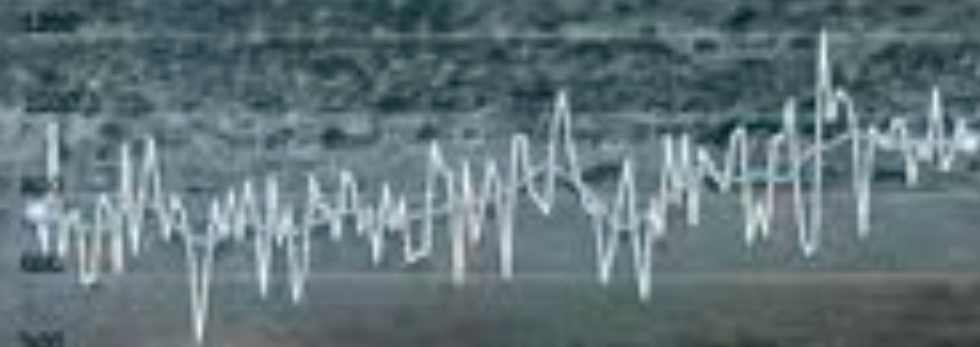


STEEDS MEER NEERSLAG



De afgelopen eeuw kende een grote variatie in
droge en natte jaren.

Sinds 1901 nam de jaarlijkse
hoeveelheid neerslag in de regio Amsterdam
daarbij toe met 35 procent, van gemiddeld
758 mm naar 1033 mm.



Neerslag in mm/ Amsterdam

1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010



Aantal dagen met 20mm of meer neerslag, Amsterdam

1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010

NAP-2100

Aanwijzingen voor snellere zeespiegelstijging

In de KNMI-SA-Scenario's wordt de overgang
op 3 meter zeespiegelstijging rond 2100.

Er zijn echter aanwijzingen dat de zeespiegel sneller kan stijgen dan in deze
scenario's was voorzien. De snellere stijging wordt vooral toegeschreven aan
het sneller afsmelten van Antarctica.

Het IPCC, het Verdrag van Parijs en de VN-Verdragen zijn niet bedoeld als een
aansluiting op de werkelijkheid, met 1,5°C als dat mogelijk is. Het is mogelijk dat de zeespiegel
sneller zal stijgen dan in deze scenario's was voorzien.



ACTUEEL



HOOGTEBESTAND NEDERLAND

Het grootste deel van het gebied rond
Amsterdam ligt nu al onder de zeespiegel.



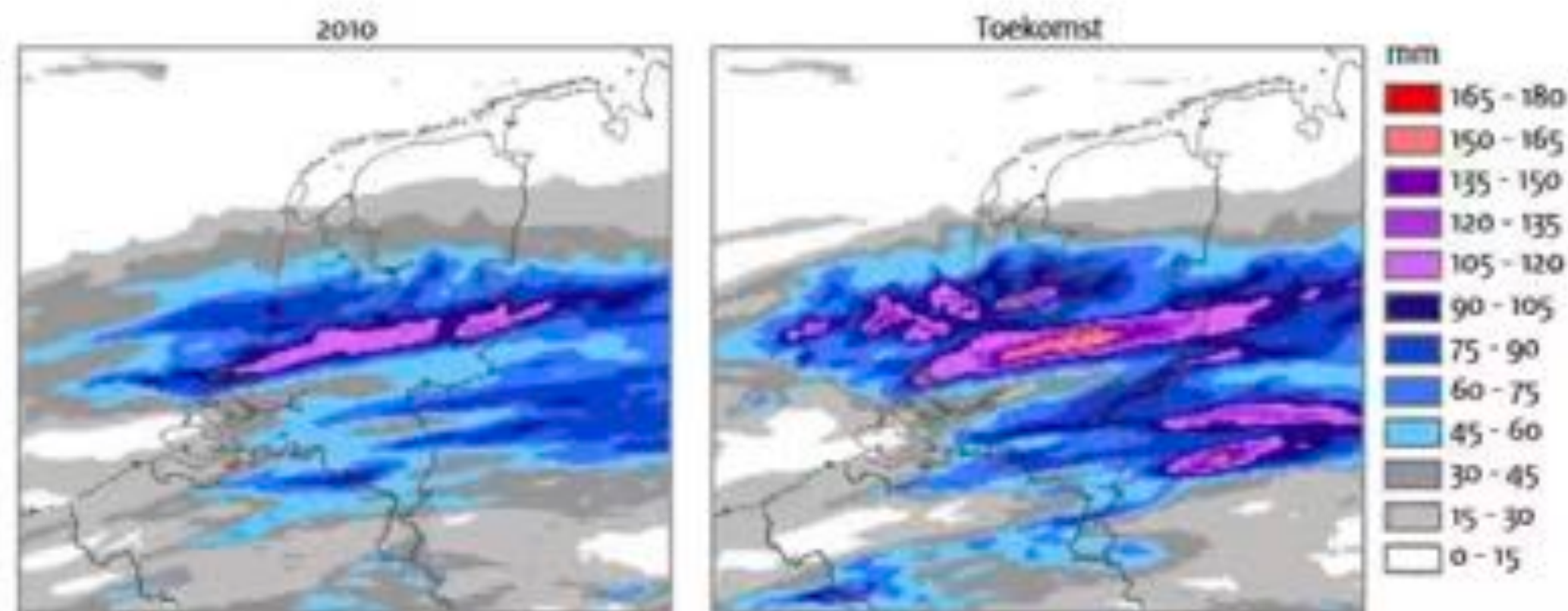
Hoogteprofiel IJmuiden - Blaricum - IJsselmeer

West > Oost (80km)



Future weather

Extreme weather event translated to a 2 degrees warmer climate



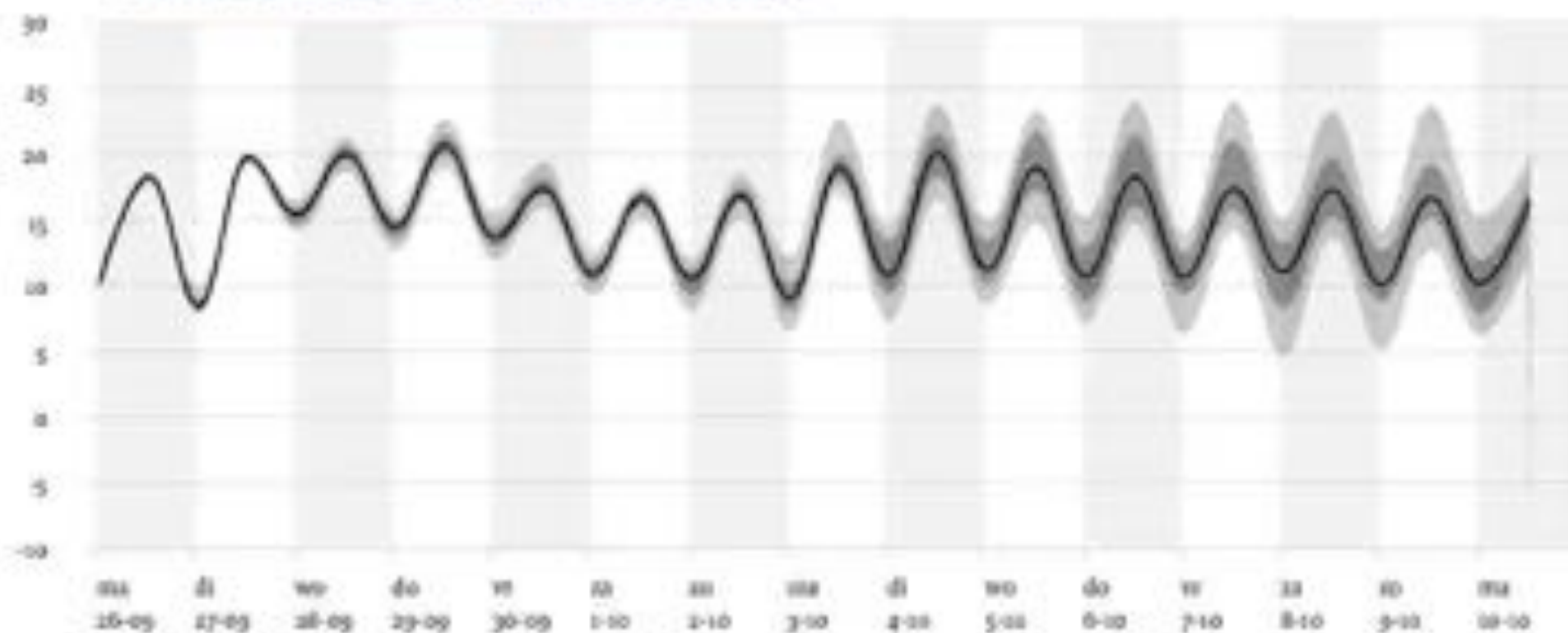
Example 4

knmi.nl/weer-en-klimaatpluim



Climate information in the weather forecast

Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$, forecast)

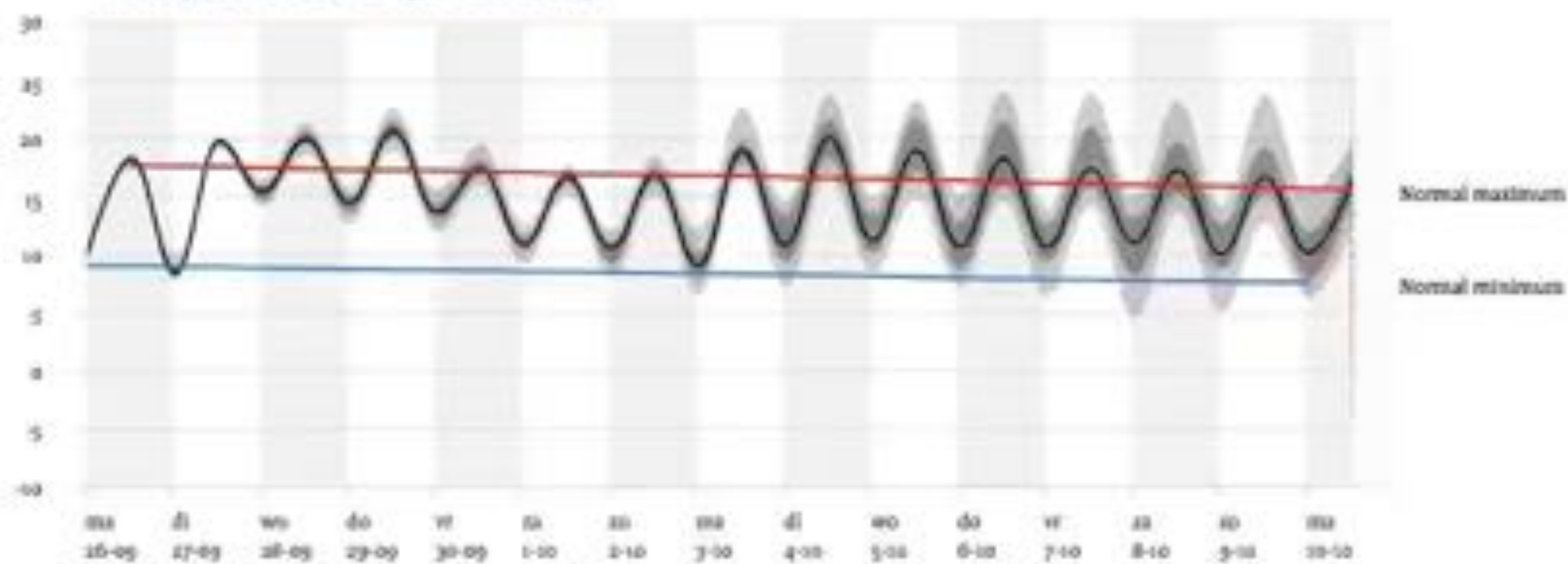


Example 4

knmi.nl/weer-en-klimaatpluim



Temperature (normal)

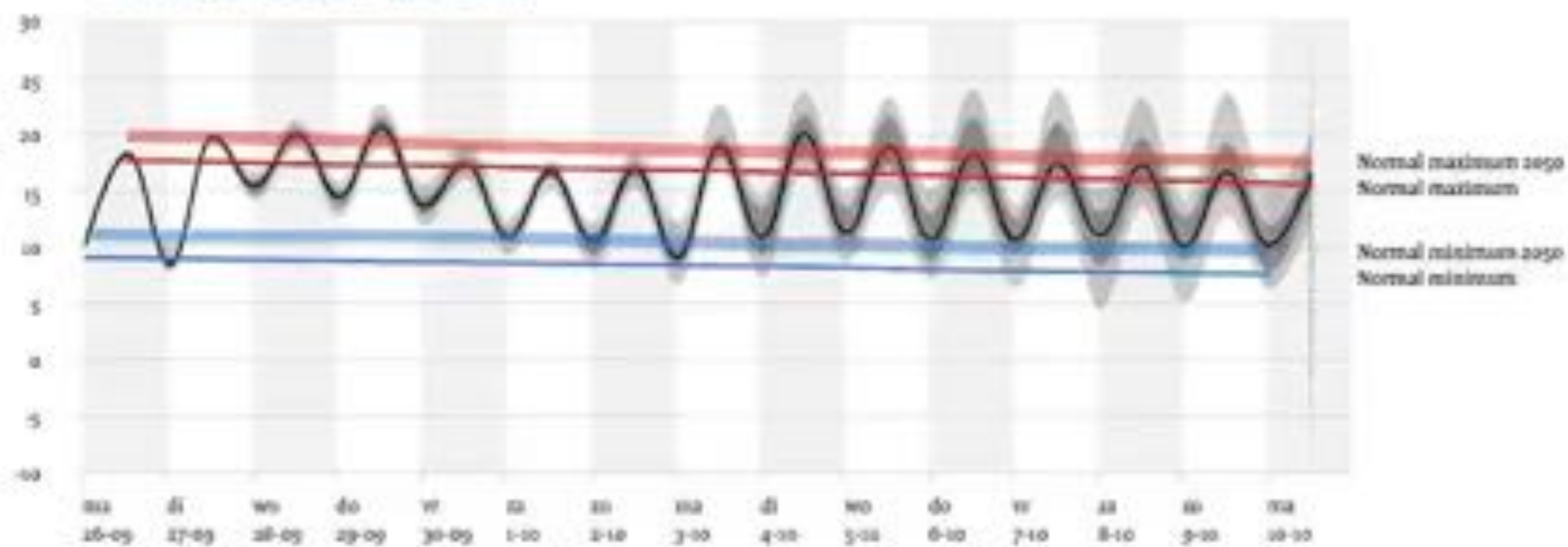


Example 4

knmi.nl/weer-en-klimaatpluim



Temperature (2050)

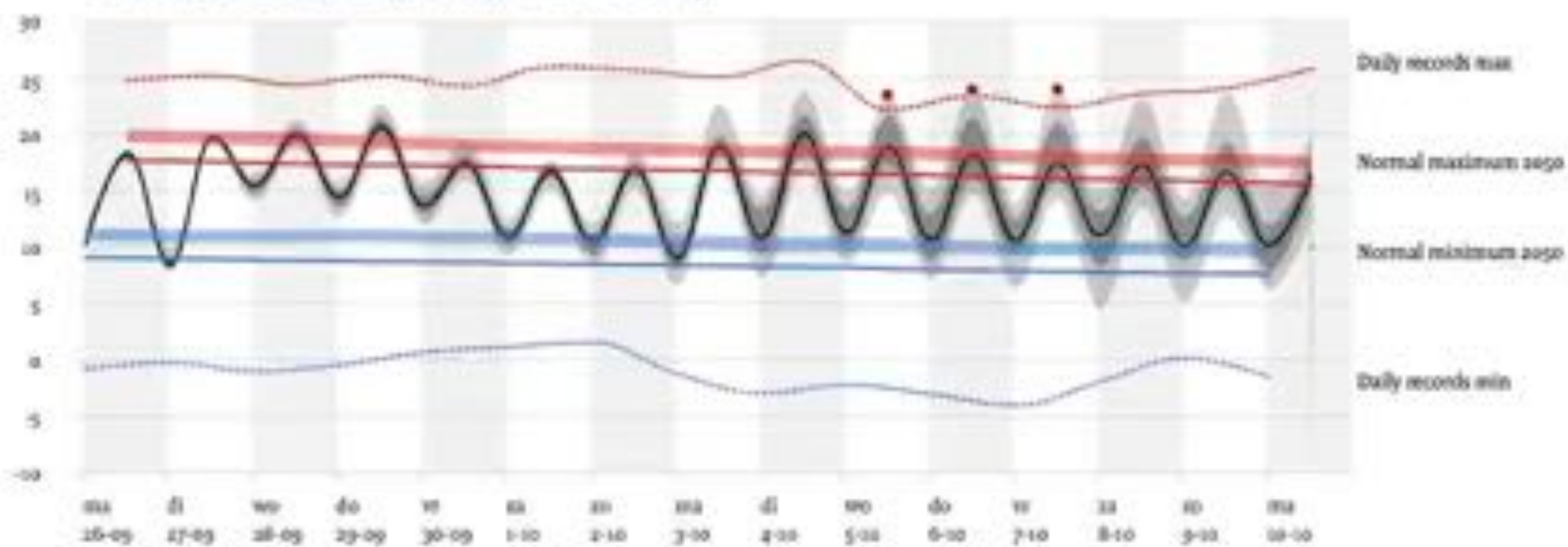


Example 4

knmi.nl/weer-en-klimaatpluim



Temperature (daily records)



Example 4

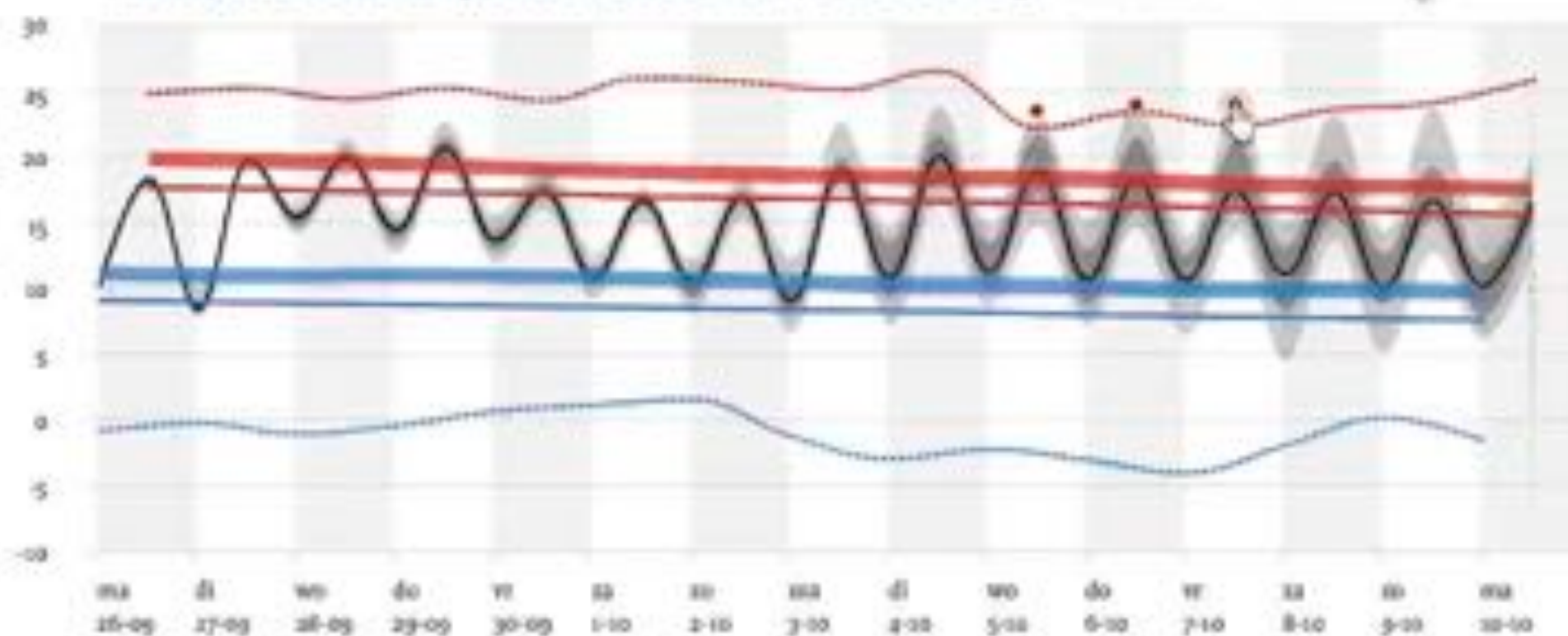
knmi.nl/weer-en-klimaatpluim



Temperature (extremes in forecast)

Friday 7 October

Maximum of 22°C occurs in this period between once every year or 2 years. Around 2050 the maximum will be around 1 or 3 °C higher.



KNMI specials

De laatste inzichten uit het IPCC-rapport over oceanen en de cryosfeer



De rol van oceanen, sneeuw en ijs in het klimaat

Lees dit artikel

Photo: Steffen Olsen, DMI



Zeespiegelstijging nu en in de toekomst

Lees dit artikel



Wat doet Nederland om de gevolgen te beperken?

Lees dit artikel



Storylines: indentify yourself with someone

Oplossingen voor wateroverlast

Sacha Stijp werkt voor het Ingenieursbureau van de gemeente Amsterdam. Zij heeft als taak om de openbare ruimte in de stad te verbeteren, en daarmee de stad klimaatbestendig te maken. "Het Ingenieursbureau let op de 'voeten van de stad', zoals bruggen, wegen, het met en kapoturen. Per jaar besteden we 200 miljoen euro om de stad veilig, leefbaar en verblijfsbaar te houden."

De gemeente probeert de stad voor te bereiden op de gevolgen van klimaatverandering. Volgens het KNMI gaat het in de toekomst vaker hard regenen, het klimaat in de wereld, en dus ook in Nederland, wordt warmer. Warme lucht kan meer water vasthouden. Hoe meer water er in de lucht zit, hoe meer er ook weer uit kan vallen.



Hans Vught is de directeur van Hotel Casa in Amsterdam. Op het dak van het hotel liet hij een groot dakterras aanleggen voor zijn gasten.

Een van de redenen om dit dakterras aan te leggen, is om de omgeving voor te bereiden op klimaatverandering. Volgens het KNMI gaat het in de toekomst vaker hard regenen. Dat komt door klimaatverandering, het klimaat in de wereld, en dus ook in Nederland, wordt warmer. Warme lucht kan meer water vasthouden. Hoe meer water er in de lucht zit, hoe meer er ook weer uit kan vallen.



Oplossingen voor wateroverlast

Arnoud Heikens is lid van het Jan Slagter collectief in de van Goyenkade in Amsterdam. Samen met de buurt maakte hij van een steen binnenplaatsje een openbare binnenplaats.

Deze binnenplaats is onder andere bedoeld om de buurt voor te bereiden op de gevolgen van klimaatverandering.

Volgens het KNMI gaat het in de toekomst vaker hard regenen. Dat komt door klimaatverandering, het klimaat in de wereld, en dus ook in Nederland, wordt warmer. Warme lucht kan meer water vasthouden. Hoe meer water er in de lucht zit, hoe meer er ook weer uit kan vallen.

Deze verandering in neerslag kan voor problemen zorgen. "We begonnen met een tijdelijke broedplaats voor kunstenaars in het oude schonegebouw aan het plein. Toen merkten we dat bij elke regenbui het plein blank kwam te staan. Niet is een kort bedrup. Al het water wat op de omringende gebouwen valt, komt hier terecht. De afwatering is ook niet goed. Bij flinke regenbuien liep het zo de ateliers in."





Key-messages

- We have to give the facts a safe landing
- Visualizations can effectively support:
 - the connection to your public
 - the bringing of your main message
- Carefully look if the information presented can be interpreted in other ways



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Visualization and communication of uncertainties

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

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About Climate Visuals





Check out the 7 principles for visual climate change communication

- 1** Show that people *not* shaped photographs

A person expressing an identifiable emotion is powerful. But our discussion groups favoured 'authentic' images over staged photographs, which they see as gimmicky or even manipulative. Followers – notoriously low on credibility and authenticity – attracted scores of the lowest scores on all three nations in our survey.
- 2** Tell new stories

Images that participants could quickly and easily understand – such as smokestacks, deforestation, and polar bears on melting ice – tended to be positively rated in our online survey (which captured rapid responses to images, rather than deeper debates). Familiar 'climate' images may be especially useful for audiences with limited knowledge or interest in climate change, but they also prompted cynicism and fatigue in our discussion groups. They are effective ways of communicating to an audience that 'the story is about climate change'. But is it a story they want to hear? Less familiar (and more thought-provoking) images can help tell a new story about climate change, and remake the visual representation of climate change in the public mind.
- 3** Show climate *causes* of scale

We found that people do not necessarily understand the links between climate change and their daily lives. Individual causes of climate change (such as meat-eating) may not be recognised as such, and if they are, may provoke defensive reactions. If communicating the links between 'problematic' behaviour and climate change, it is best to show those behaviours at scale – e.g. a congested highway, rather than a single driver.
- 4** Climate impacts are *emotionally* powerful

Survey participants in all three nations were moved more by climate impacts – e.g. floods, and the destruction wrought by extreme weather – than by 'causes' or 'solutions'. Images of climate impacts can prompt a desire to respond, but because they are emotionally powerful they can also be overwhelming. Coupling images of climate impacts with a concrete behavioural 'action' for people to take can help overcome this.
- 5** Show local *and* national climate impacts

When images of localized climate impacts show an individual person or group of people, with identifiable emotions, they are likely to be most powerful. But there is a balance to be struck (at a national and within communication) between localising climate change (so that people realise the issue is relevant to them) and moulding the issue (by not making their enough links to the bigger picture).
- 6** Be *very* careful with political images

Images depicting protests (or protesters), attracted widespread reaction, and scores of the lowest (amongst in our survey). In our discussion groups, images of what people described as 'typical environmentalists' only really resonated with the small number of people who already considered themselves as activists and campaigners. Most people do not feel an affinity with climate change protesters, so images of protests may reinforce the idea that climate change is for 'them' rather than 'us'. Protest images involving people directly affected by climate impacts were seen as more authentic, and therefore more compelling.
- 7** Understand your *audience*

Surprisingly, levels of concern/expressed about climate change determined how people reacted to the images we tested. But other differences emerged too – images of distant climate impacts produced much faster emotional responses among those on the political right. Images depicting 'solutions' to climate change generated mostly positive emotions – for those on the political right, as well as those on the left.