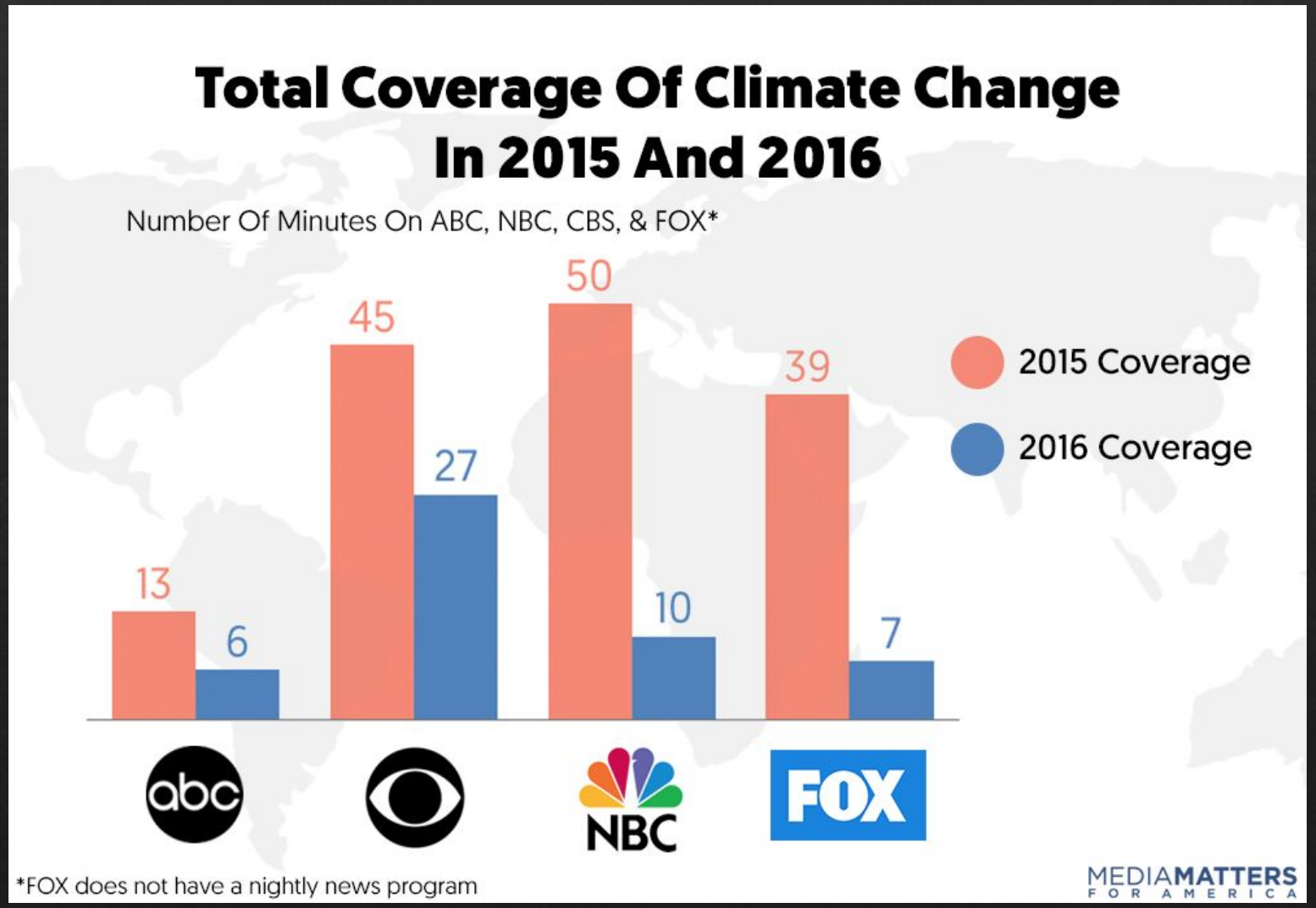
WARMING WORLD
Climate Change In Wisconsin
View From A TV Meteorologist

Robert Lindmeier
Chief Meteorologist
WKOW TV
AMS Television Seal Of Approval

Climate Silence



Who Do Americans Trust As A Source Of Information About Global Warming?

1. **Climate Scientists 70%**
2. **Other Scientists 64%**
3. **TV Weathercasters 60%**
4. **Friends & Family Members**

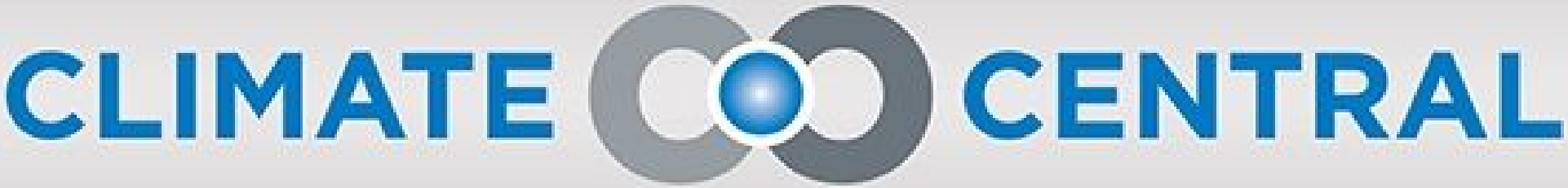
Perkins IV, D,. E. Maibach, N. Gardiner, J Witte, B. Ward, Woods Plackt, K Seither, and H. Cullen, 2016: Most Americans Want to Learn More About Climate Change, Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc. dog: 10 1175/BAMS-D-16-0097.1 in press.

TV Weathercasters Views On Climate Change

1. **95% think climate change is happening.**
2. **49% are convinced that climate change has been mostly or entirely due to human activity.**
3. **40% are interested in reporting on-air about climate change.**

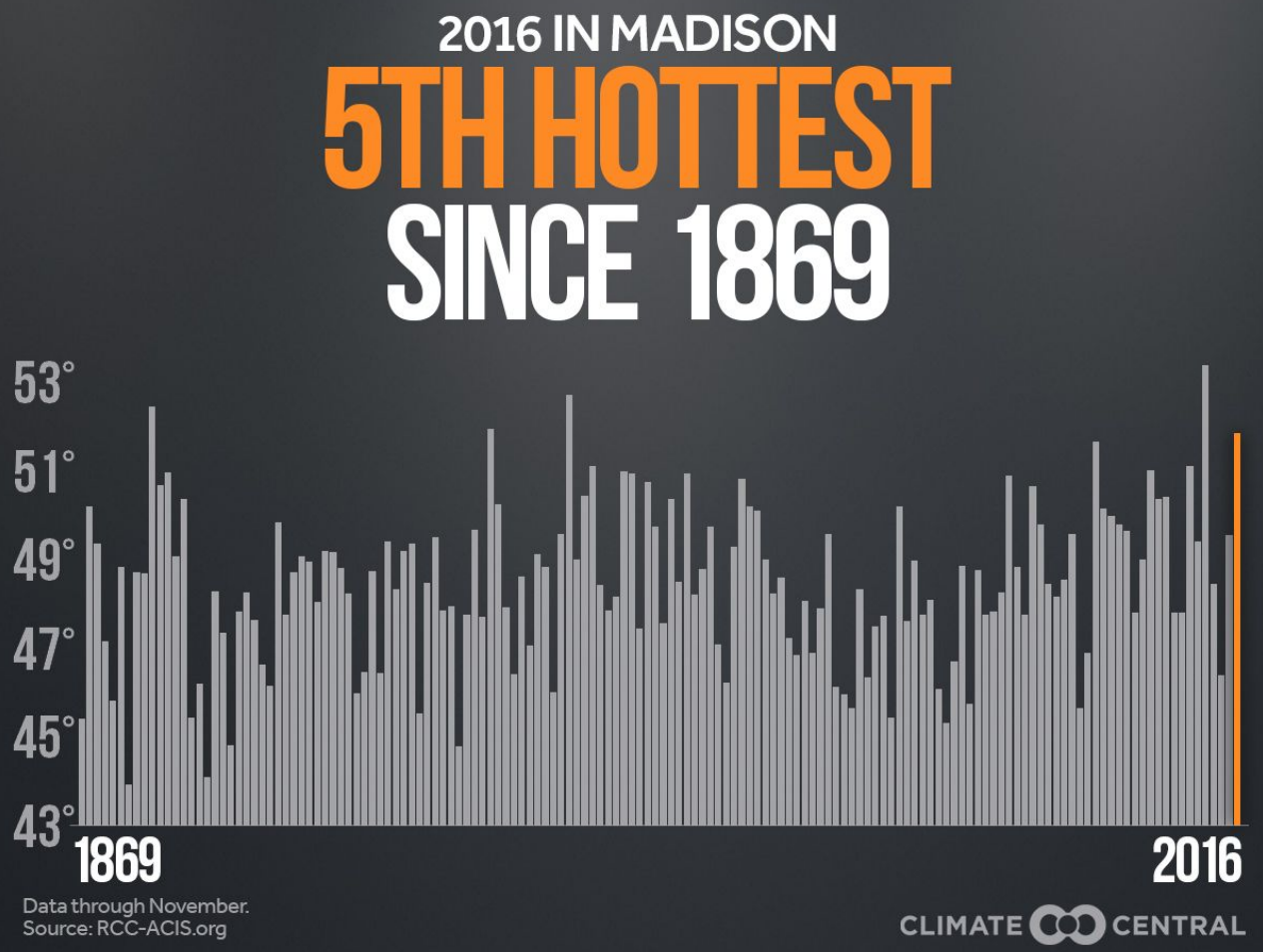
Maibach, E., Perkins, D., Timm, K., Myers, T., Woods Plackt, B., et al. (2017), A 2017 National Survey of Broadcast Meteorologogists: Initial Findings. George Mason University, Fairfax, VA: Center for Climate Change Communication

27
Microcast
WEATHER CENTRAL
Wisconsin Rapids
La Crosse
Mauston
Princeton
Portage
Richland Center
Dodgeville
Platteville
Monroe
Janesville
Rockford
Mon 9:00 AM



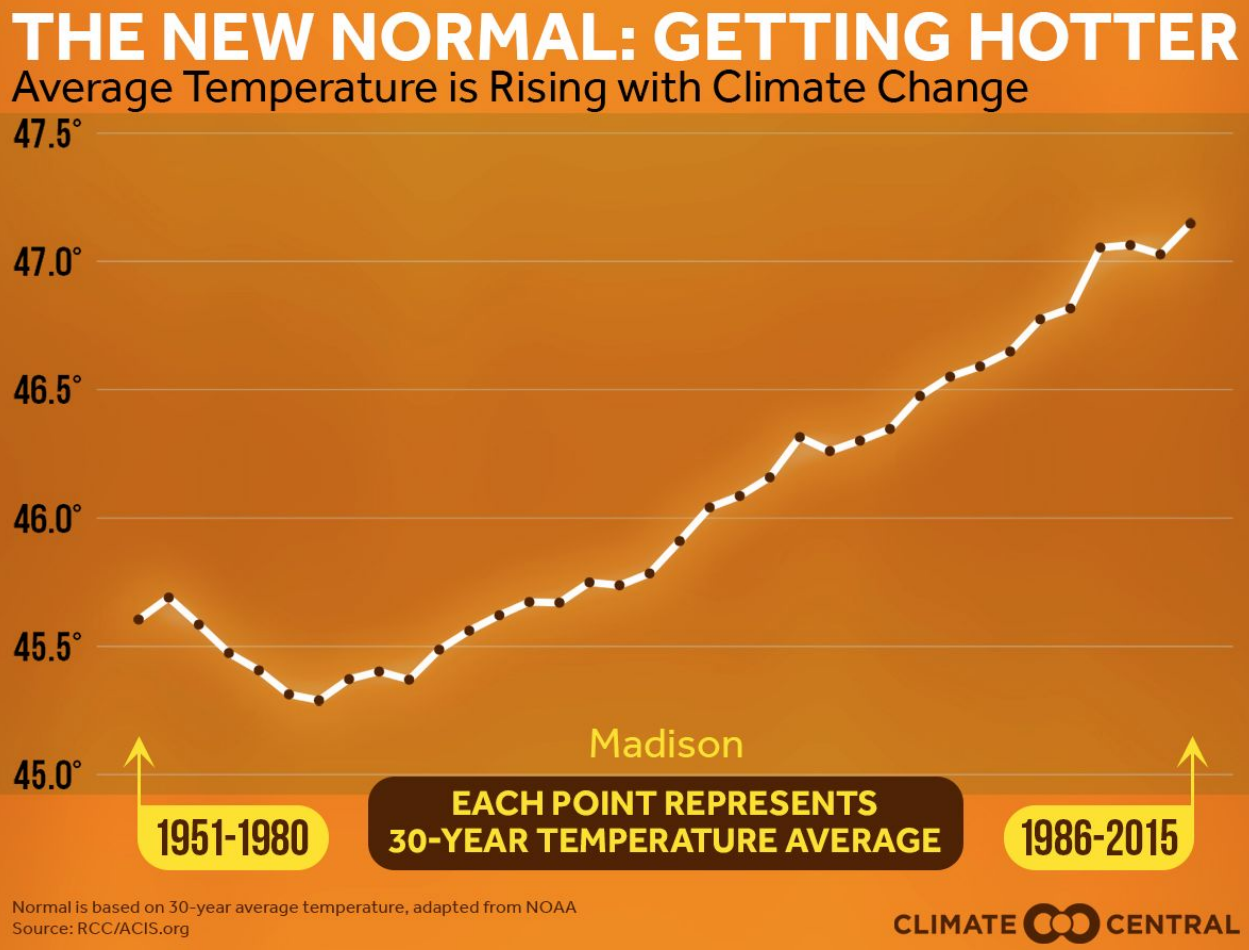
Researching and reporting
the **science** and **impacts** of climate change

Local: 2016 Heat



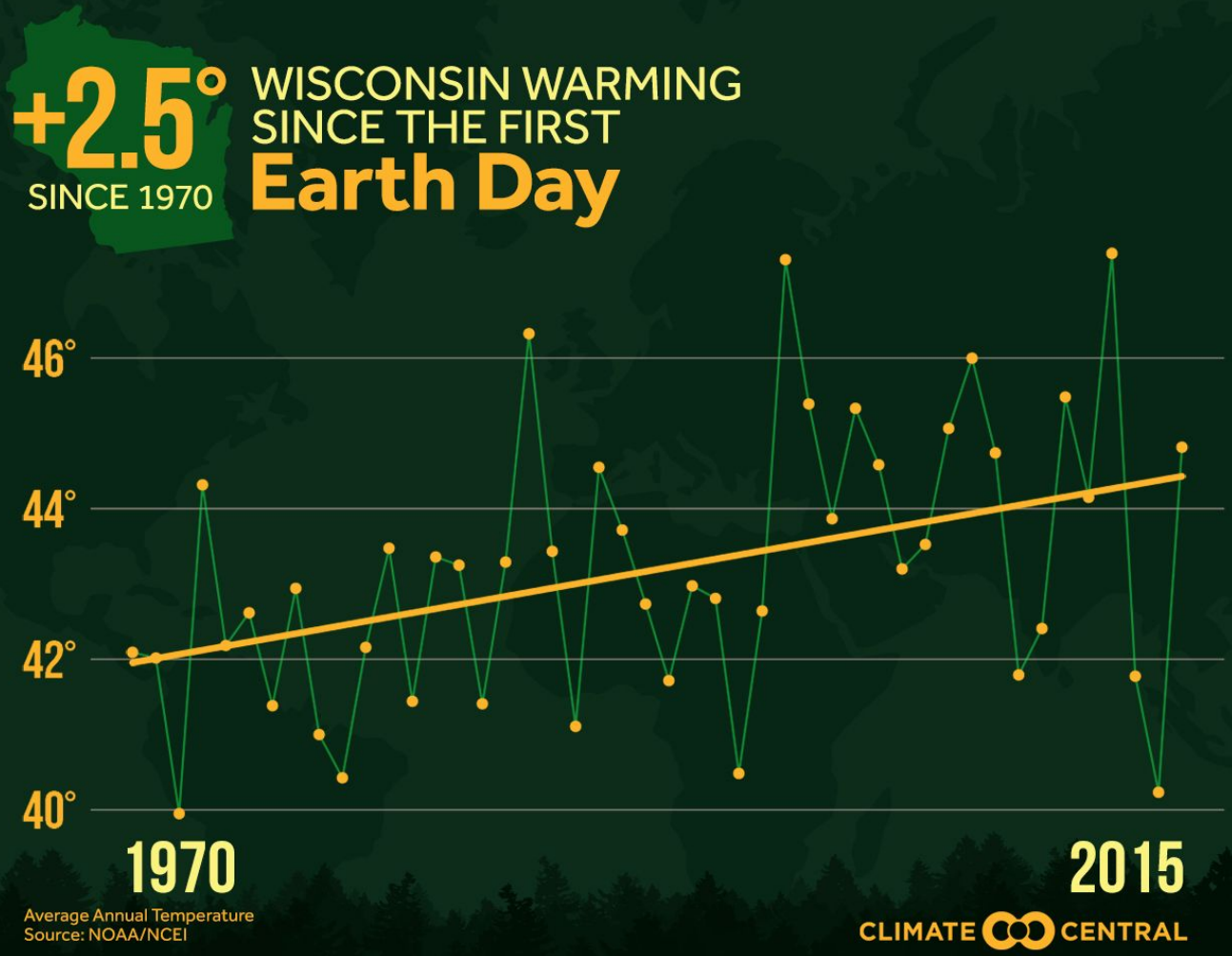
- 2016 was the hottest on record globally.
- The United States had it's 2nd hottest on record.
- Madison had it's 5th hottest.

Local: Normals Are Warming



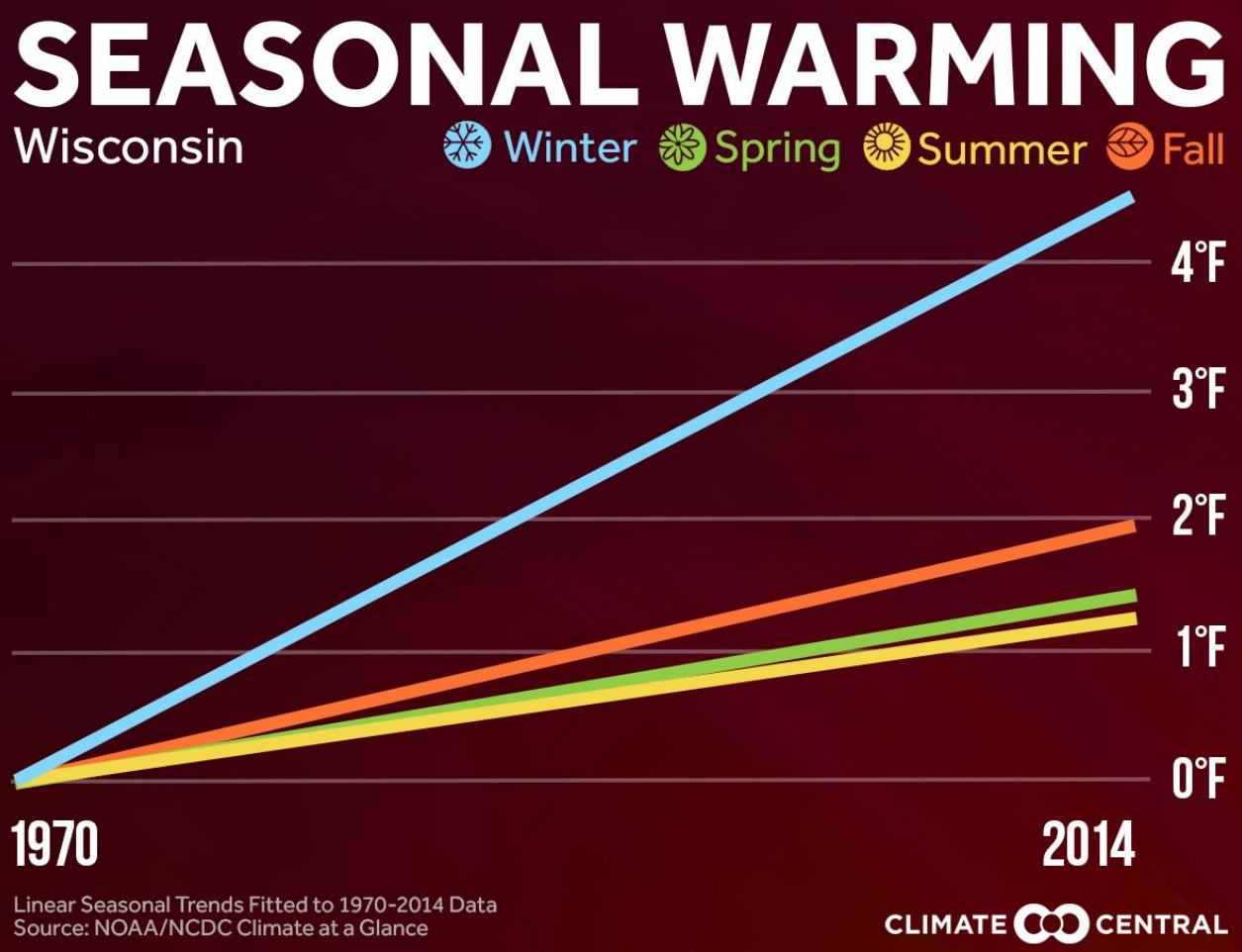
- Meteorological normals are defined as the 30-year average temperature

Local: Warming Since The 1st Earth Day



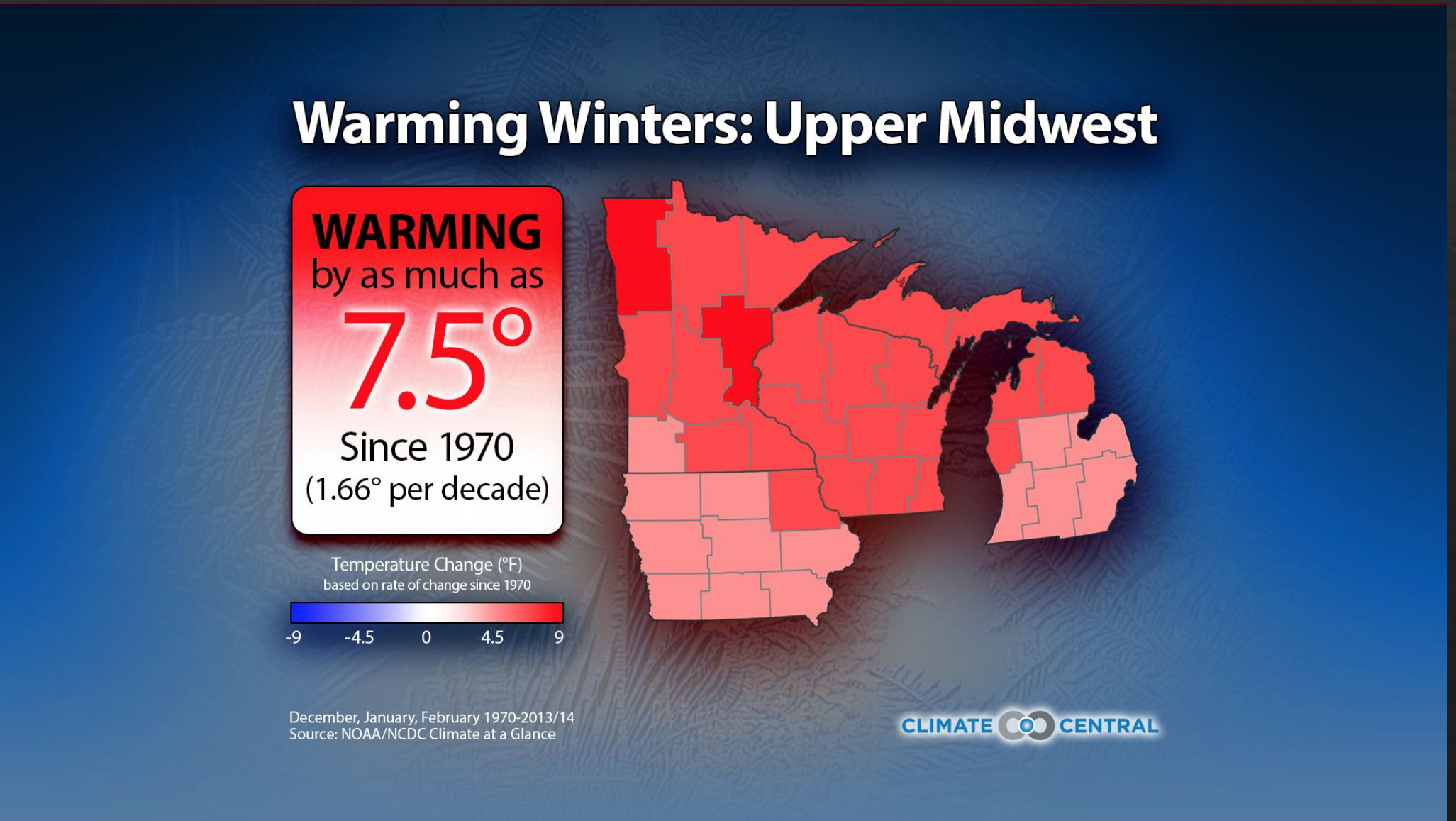
- Since the first Earth Day in 1970, average temperatures across the U.S. have been steadily rising nationwide, including in Wisconsin.

Local: All Seasons Are Warming



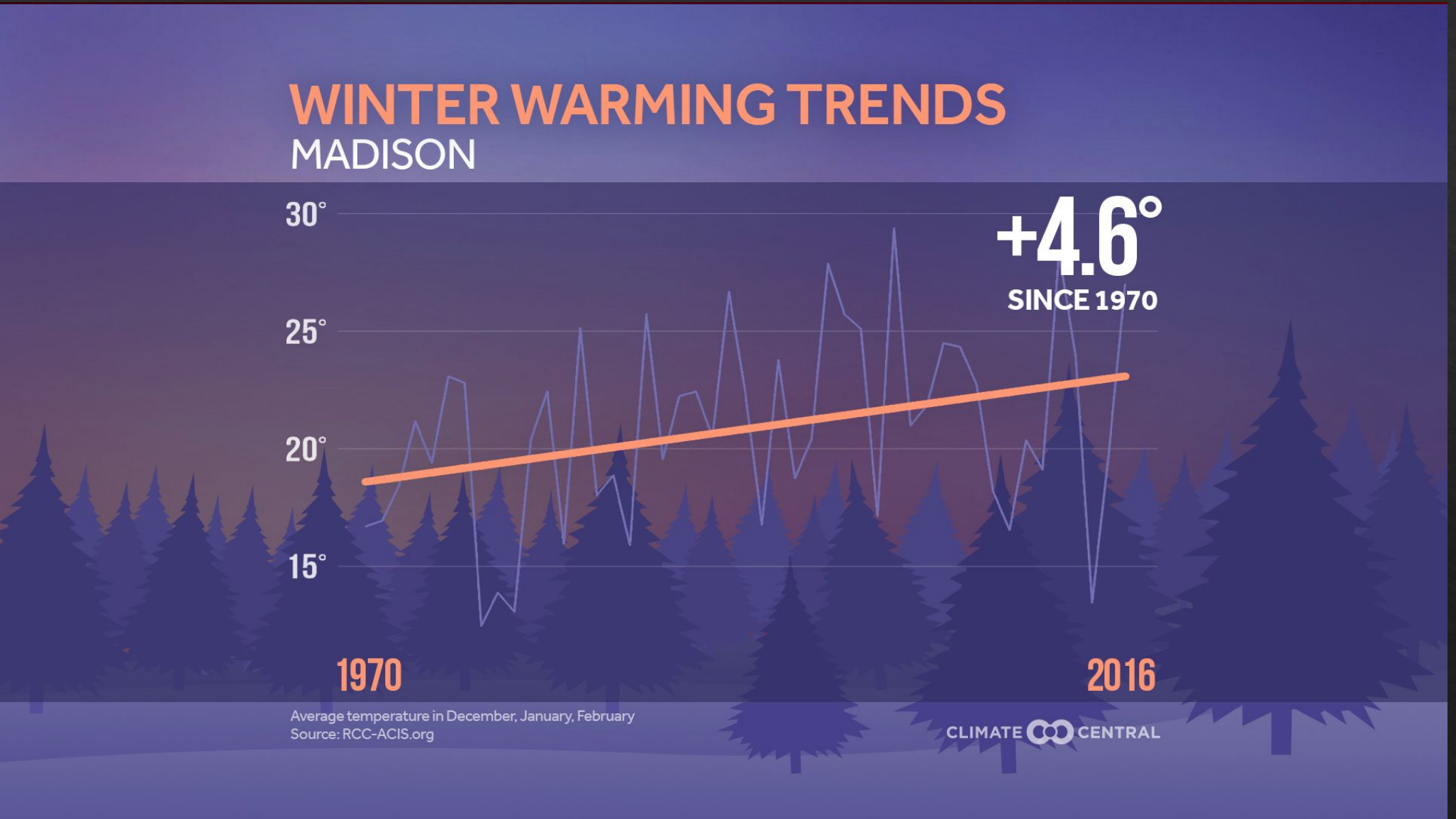
- Different seasons are warming at different rates

Local: How Winters Are Changing



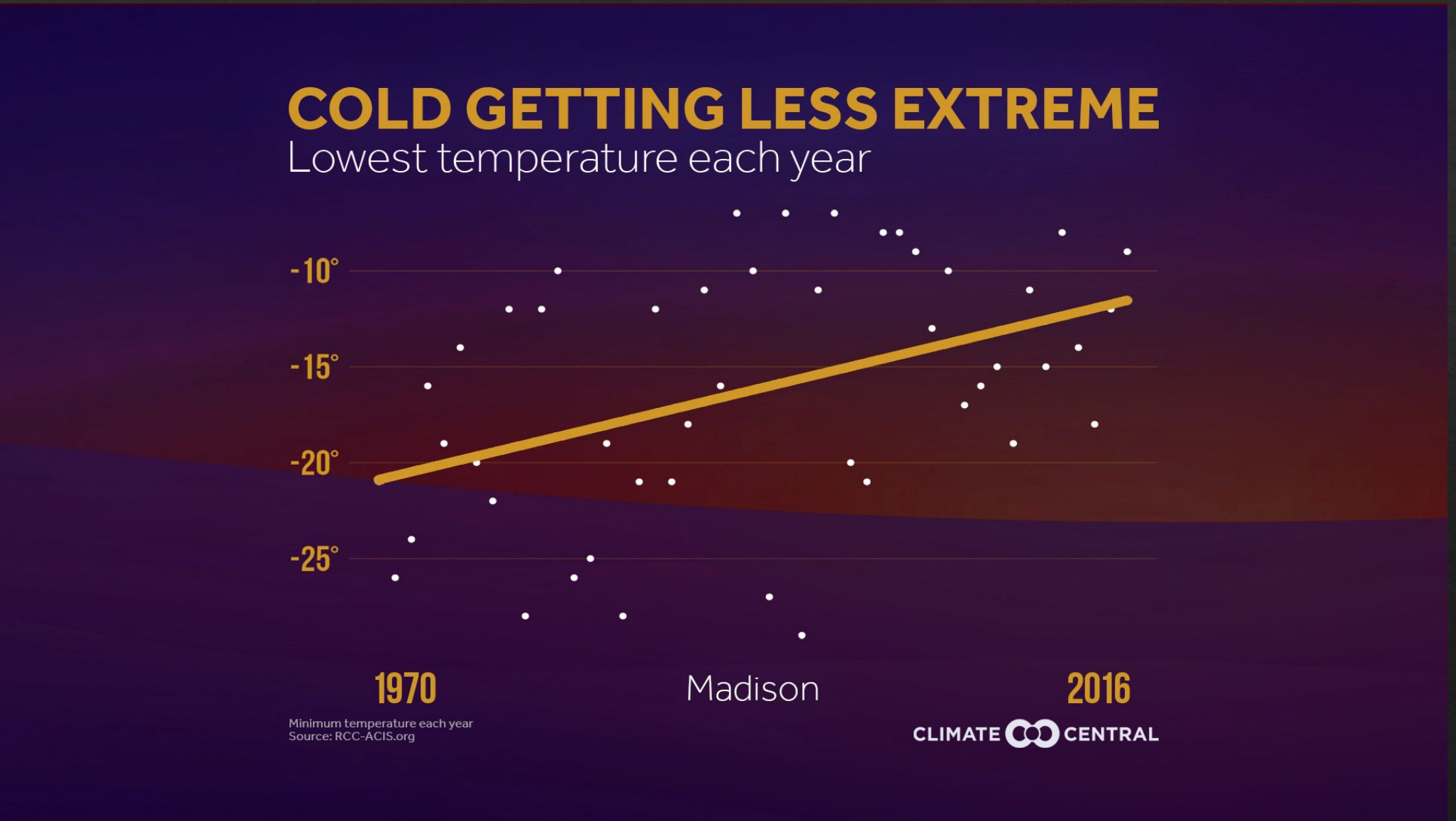
- Since 1970, the average winter temperature in the continental U.S. has warmed by 2.4°F since 1970.

Local: How Winters Are Changing



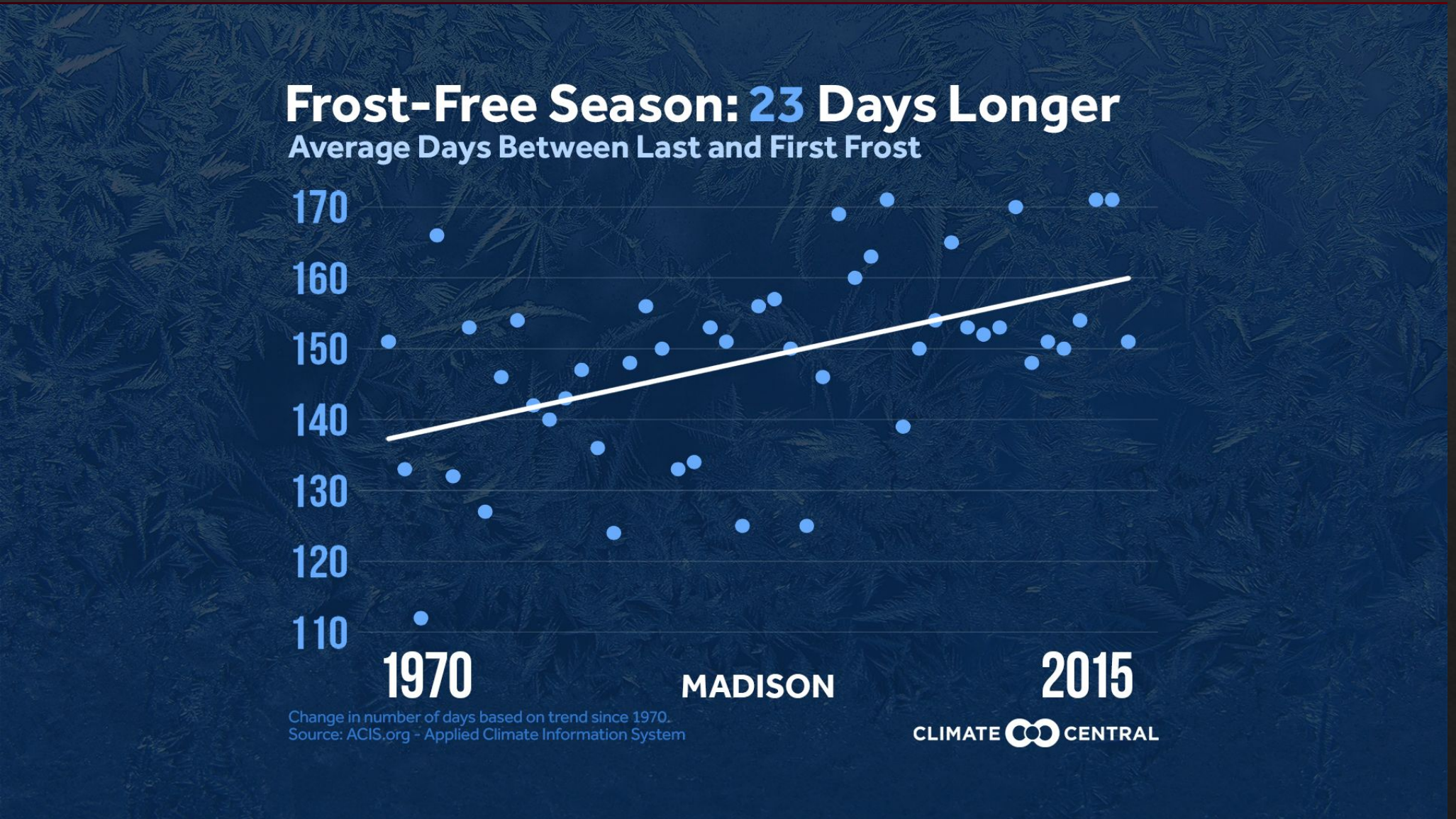
- Since 1970, the average winter temperature in the continental U.S. has warmed by 2.4°F since 1970. Madison and the Upper Midwest have warmed even faster!

Local: Cold Getting Less Extreme



- Even though we will continue to see cold outbreaks in a warming world, the trend shows that these extreme nights are happening less often.

Local: Lengthening Frost-Free Season

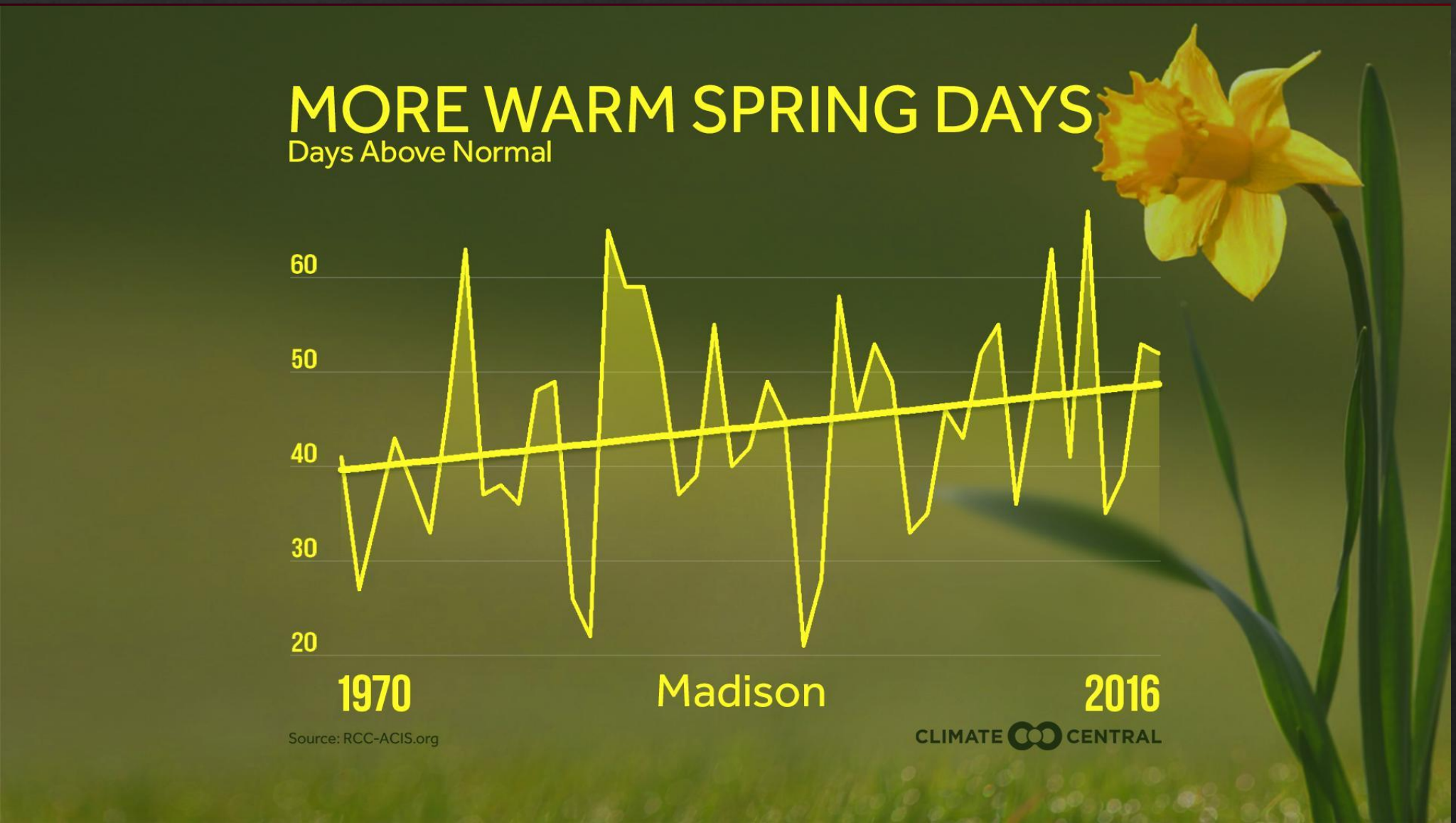


- The longer the time without a frost, the longer the growing season.

Local: The Problems With Warming

- While shorter winters might sound good at first, it comes with consequences for recreation, farming, and the environment.

Local: How Spring Is Changing



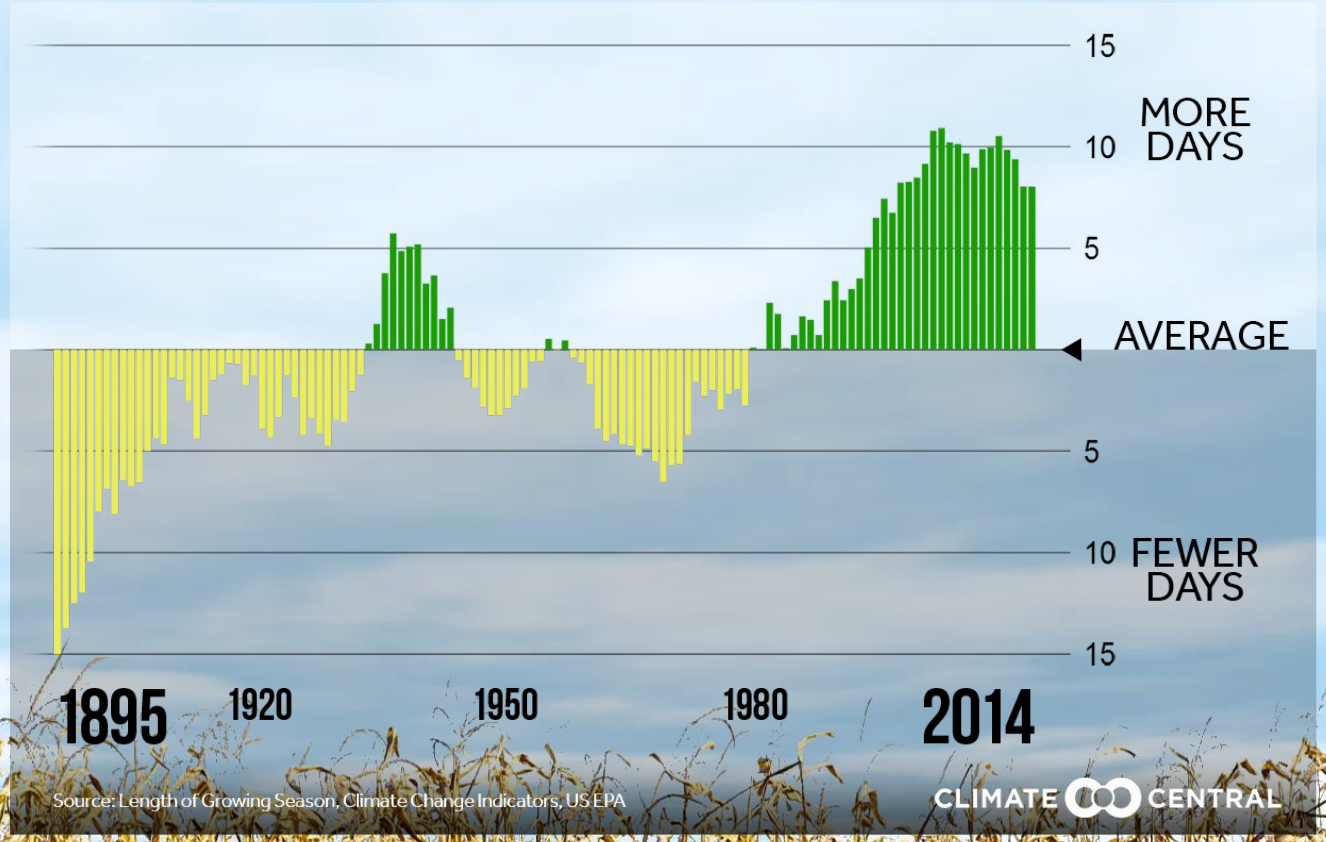
- In a unchanging climate, the number of days above and below normal should be relatively balanced and constant through the years.

Local: The Problems With Warming

- Warming can distort the well established behavioral patterns of plants and animals. These disruptions have a cascading effect on the environment and economy.

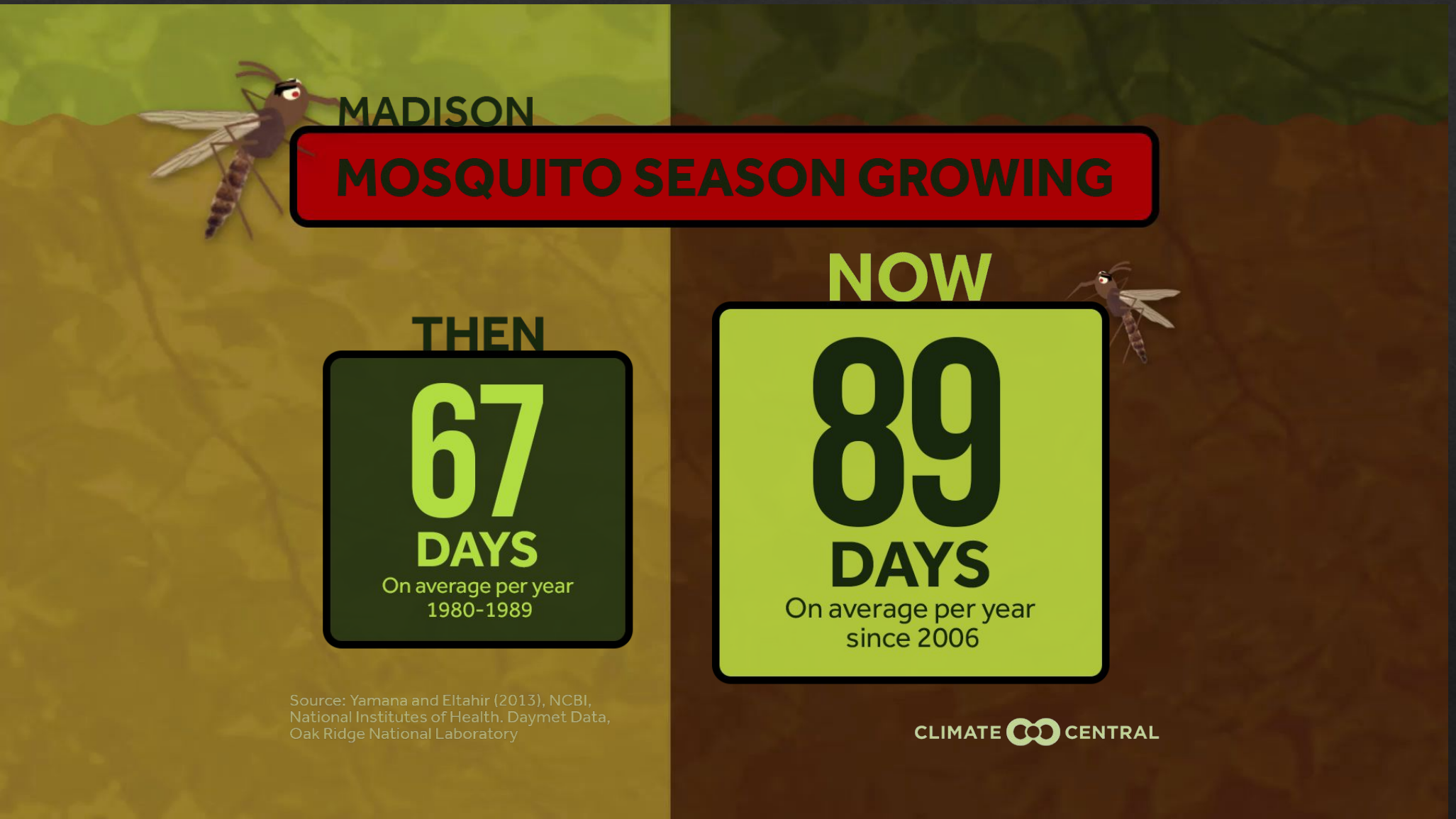
CLIMATE CENTRAL

Local: Longer Growing Season



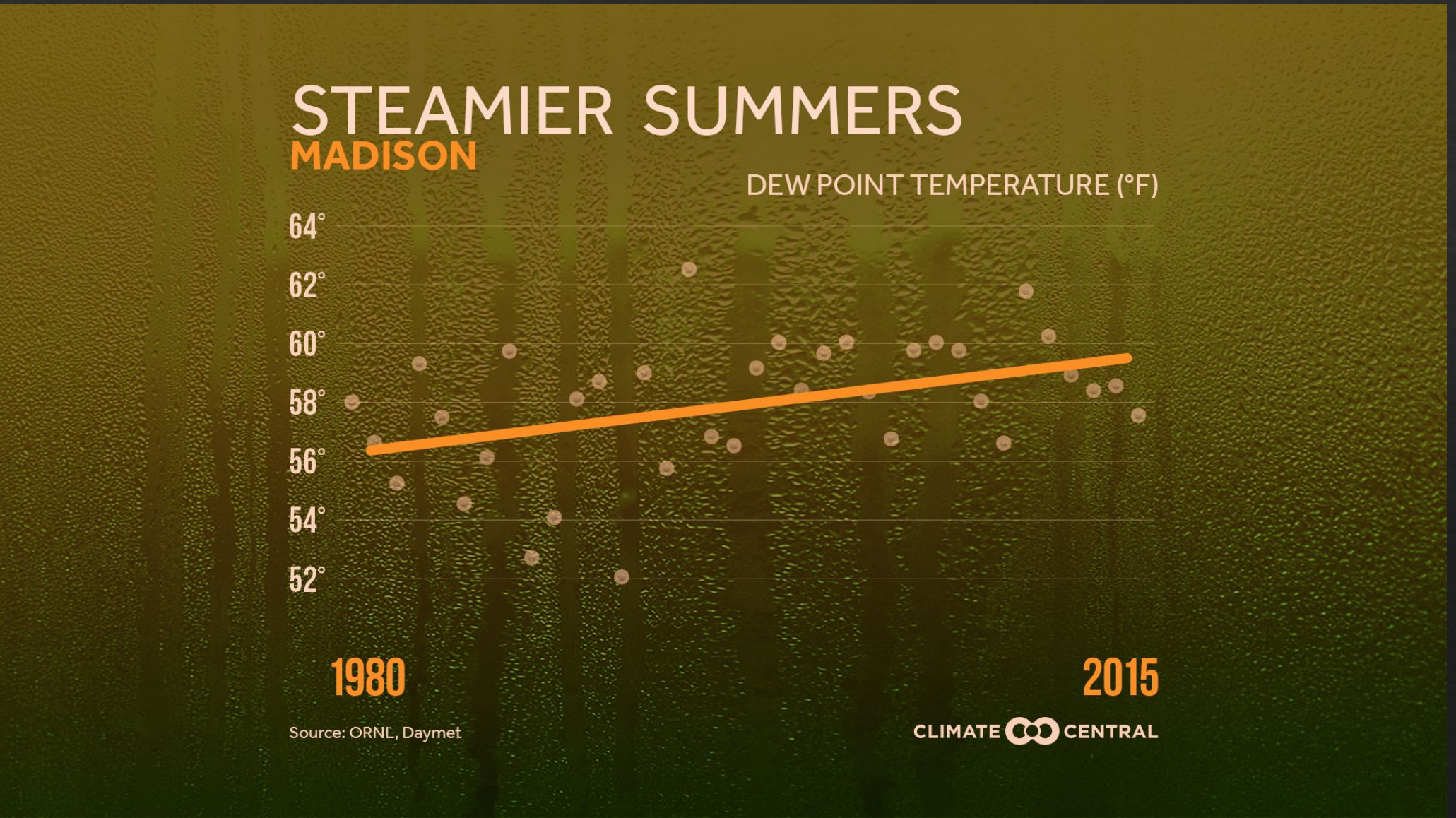
- The growing season in Wisconsin is about 10 days longer than at the beginning of the 20th century. California has a growing season that is about a month longer!

Local: More Mosquito Days



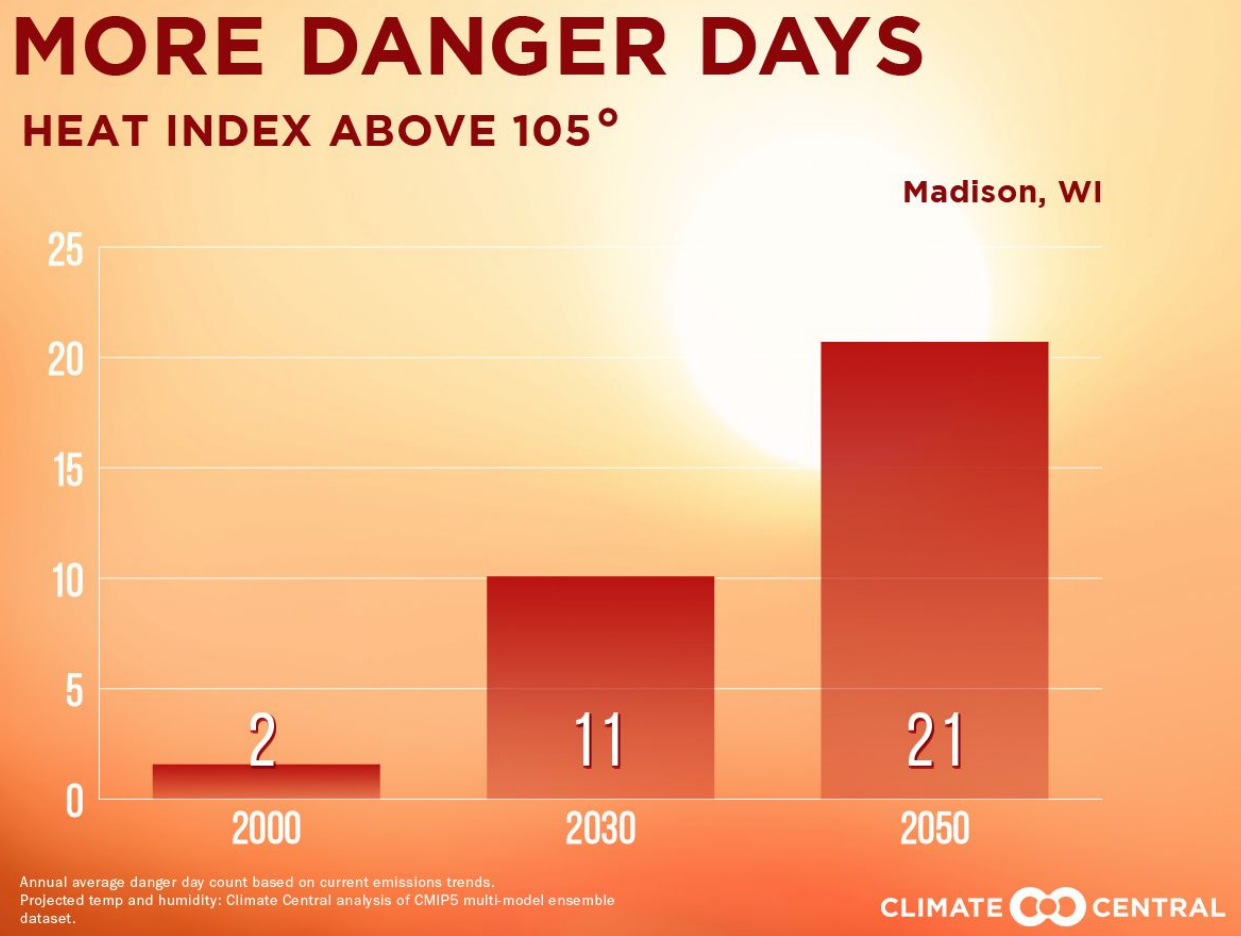
- Mosquito bites can be more than just a menace and a discomfort, as these insects transmit diseases like West Nile, malaria, and more recently, Zika.

Local: Summers Are Getting Stickier



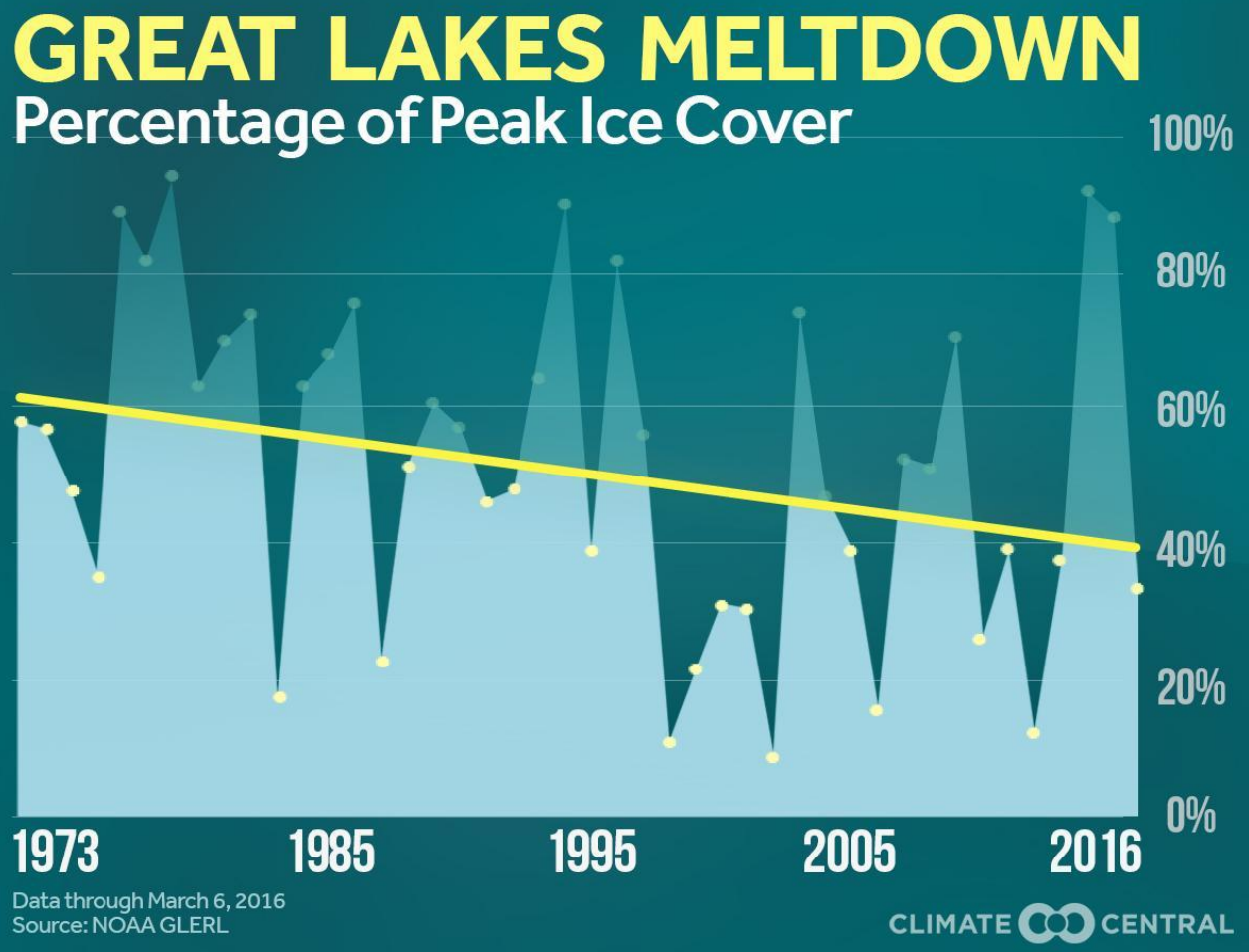
- Higher heat paired with higher moisture content raises the risk of heat-related illnesses.

Local: Hotter and More Humid



- Hotter and more humid summers increase the risk from heat-related illnesses like heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Indicators: Great Lakes Ice Is Declining



- Annual maximum in ice coverage on the Great Lakes is decreasing
- Supports longer lake-effect snow season

Local: Future Summers In Madison

- Madison's projected summer high temperatures for the end of this century based on current emissions trends today.