

Science4Climate Action seminar series:

Summer 2026: a wake-up call?

12 October 2026

Belgian Climate Centre

Av. Circulaire 3, 1180 Uccle (Brussels)

Agenda

13.30 – 14.00	Registration and coffee
14:00 – 14:05	Welcome (Etienne Hannon, Belgian Climate Centre)
14:05 – 14:25	Summer 2026: the new normal? (Pascal Mailier RMI; Xavier Fettweis, ULiège) Setting the scene: a climatological review of the summer 2026
14:25 – 15:25	Breakout group discussions Participants will be divided into 5 groups (7-8 people each). Groups will rotate through five stations, spending 10 minutes at each to build upon the following key questions: • Which domains or sectors in Belgium were hit the hardest by recent events or require the most urgent attention or action? • What specific actions and reforms should be prioritised at the political and institutional levels? • What are the core lessons to be learned from the events of summer 2026? • How can the scientific community organise itself more effectively to react to such events in a collective and coordinated manner and to ensure science-based messages have a stronger impact on decision-making? • Mitigation received limited attention during the events of this summer. Should we bring it back to the centre of the agenda - and if so, how? What key messages should we convey?
15:25 – 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 – 16:55	Summer 2026 – A trigger to climate action? Moderated by Lene Topp (Science4Policy & Capacity Building Expert): • Report back from breakout groups • Panel discussion (Joanna Wils KULeuven; Wim Thiery VUB) • Interactive debate with the audience
16:55 – 17:00	Closing (Etienne Hannon, Belgian Climate Centre)