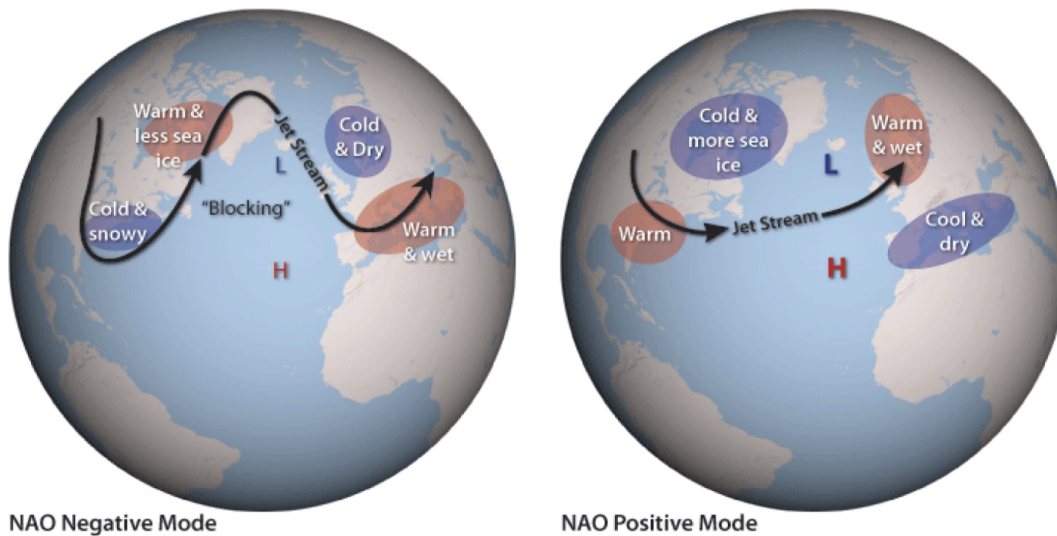


NAO and its Phases: This atmospheric phenomenon has two distinct phases: positive and negative. During the positive phase, New England generally experiences clear skies and elevated temperatures. However, during the negative phase, which occurs more frequently in winter and fall, we witness heightened precipitation and lower temperatures. This is due to an increase in low-pressure systems, intensifying instability, cloud cover, and thunderstorms.



*Schematic Adapted From AIRMAP By Ned Gardiner And David Herring / National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration*

The Influence of Climate Change: While the NAO played a role in the excessively wet summer we experienced, climate change projections offer a sobering outlook for the future. According to NOAA, Connecticut has already witnessed a staggering 38% surge in annual precipitation. Storms become more intensive, occurring with greater frequency and releasing substantial amounts of water. These trends are projects to continue and intensify in the coming decades.

The Urgency for an Adaptation Plan: Given these projections, it is essential for the Town of Greenwich to take immediate action and develop a comprehensive climate change adaptation plan. This plan should include robust data analysis, flood assessment and mitigation mapping, resilience strategies, public awareness, and open public and stakeholder involvement throughout the process. By developing an Adaptation Plan, Greenwich can ensure a sustainable and resilient future for its residents. Together, we can weather the storm and protect our beloved community.

Sources: CT DEEP: [Climate Change Impacts in Connecticut](#), UCONN: [CIRCA](#)