FEATURED CLIMATE HIGHLIGHT
By: Addie Chimel and Michael Page

A study completed 25 years ago by the state climate office in California explored the relationship between population changes and temperature trends in California.


When reflecting on the past 25 years of changing climate in Pennsylvania, we selected several long-term reporting stations (Historical Climatological Network) in the state and examined the population changes in the surrounding county/city in relationship to the decadal temperature trends.

The following displays those relationships for Ridgway, Palmerton and Chambersburg.

![Graph: Ridgway, PA: Mean Temperature & Population Vs. Decade](image)

Despite a marked decrease in population since 1980 around Ridgway, the mean temperature has risen during the last two decades.
In Palmerton, a slow decline in population has been met by a marked increase in temperature since the 1960’s.

Chambersburg’s trends in population and temperature have been in lock-step since the 1960’s.