

## ***How Bad is the Acid Rain Problem in New York State?***

Acid rain is measured using a scale called "pH." The lower rain's pH is, the more acidic it is:

- **Normal rain has a pH of 5.5**, meaning it is slightly acidic because carbon dioxide dissolves into it.
- **Most acid rain falling in the United States has a pH of about 4.3**, more than ten times as acidic as normal rain, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Numerous pollutants contribute to making rainfall acidic, including sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides that are emitted by power plants. As these chemicals build up in the ground and lake water, they damage forests and soils, fish and other living things, materials, and human health. In New York, acid rain is measured by 19 monitors located at various locations across the state, each of which provides an accurate depiction of the acid rain situation in its area.

***For a regional breakdown of rainfall pH across New York, please see the following report.\****

***The Capital Region:** There is one acid rain monitor in the Capital Region located in Albany that recorded an average pH value of 4.4 for rainfall in 2001.*

County	pH
Albany	4.4

***Rochester and the Finger Lakes:** There is one acid rain monitor in Rochester and the Finger Lakes located in Monroe County that recorded an average pH value of 4.48 for rainfall in 2001.*

County	pH
Monroe	4.48

***Western New York:** There are three acid rain monitors in Western New York located in Erie, Niagara and Chautauqua that recorded an average pH of 4.43 for rainfall in 2001.*

County	pH
Erie	4.45
Niagara	4.59
Chautauqua	4.26

**Central New York:** There are two acid rain monitors in Central New York located in Onondaga and Oswego that recorded an average pH of 4.38 for rainfall in 2001.

County	pH
Onondaga	4.44
Oswego	4.32

**The Hudson Valley:** There are three acid rain monitors in the Hudson Valley located in Westchester, Putnam and Ulster that recorded an average pH of 4.38 for rainfall in 2001.

County	pH
Westchester	4.34
Putnam	4.36
Ulster	4.44

**The North Country:** There are four acid rain monitors in the North Country located in St. Lawrence, Essex, Hamilton and Herkimer that recorded an average pH of 4.5 for rainfall in 2001.

County	pH
St Lawrence	4.51
Essex	4.56
Hamilton	4.43
Herkimer	4.52

**The Southern Tier:** There is one acid rain monitor in the Southern Tier located in Chemung that recorded an average pH of 4.37 for rainfall in 2001.

County	pH
Chemung	4.37

**Source:** New York State Department of Environmental Conservation