



Australia's National
Science Agency

Typical meteorological year weather files for building energy modelling

User Guide

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Document History

DATE	VERSION NO	DESCRIPTION
2024-06-26	5	Change in way time mapped from NatHERS to .epw format; Change in how radiation data obtained; Addition of this document history table
2024-08-21	6	New .epw dataset published to fix formatting issues in .epw dataset: year format 'yy' changed to 'yyyy'; 'DAYLIGHT SAVING' in header changed to 'DAYLIGHT SAVINGS'

Acknowledgments

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1 Introduction

This report describes the development of typical meteorological year (TMY) weather files suitable for use by building energy simulation software that require weather data in the EnergyPlus (.epw) format.

In 2016, the New Zealand National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) developed typical meteorological year weather files suitable for use in residential building energy simulations which use Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) software. These weather files are known as Reference Meteorological Year (RMY) weather files. They are based on historical Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) weather data drawn from the period 1990 to 2015. To make these files suitable for use by software such as EnergyPlus, ESP-r and IESVE some parameters were added, and the file was converted to the format (.epw) required by the software. Figure 1 gives an overview of the process by which the typical meteorological year weather files were created.

Section 2 describes the typical meteorological year weather dataset. Section 1 describes the transformations necessary for converting the typical meteorological year weather files suitable for NatHERS software to the format and content required by software such as EnergyPlus, ESP-r and IESVE (in .epw format).

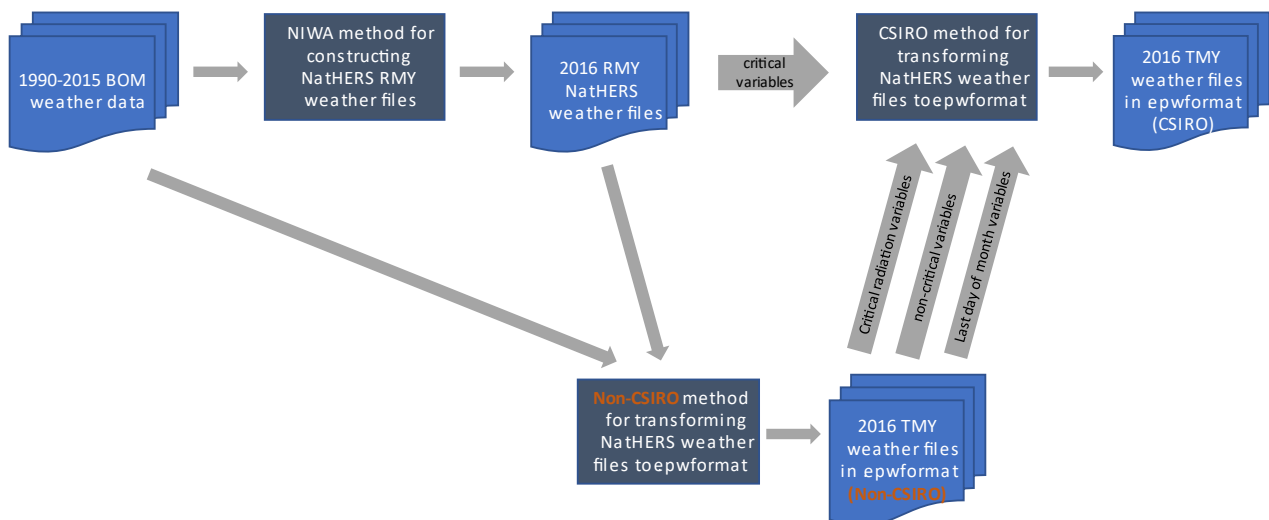


Figure 1 Overview of creation of typical meteorological year weather files

2 The dataset

The typical meteorological year weather dataset 'Typical meteorological year weather files in .epw format' consists of 83 text files in a single zip file. Each text file contains one year of weather data in hourly intervals for one of 83 Australian locations.

The typical meteorological year weather data is based on historical weather data drawn from the years 1990 to 2015.

The data is in the EnergyPlus (.epw) format and can be used by building simulation software such as EnergyPlus, ESP-r, and IESVE.

2.1 File naming

Each of the 83 files in the dataset has a unique name of the form:

nn_CZmmmm_aa_NH16_TMY.epw

For example:

60_CZ0607_TU_NH16_TMY.epw

Where:

nn = NatHERS climate zone

mmmm = Australian Climate Data Bank (ACDB) climate zone

aa = Location name code

2.2 Locations

Typical meteorological year weather files exist for 83 locations around Australia (Table 1).

Table 1 Locations

NATHERS CLIMATE ZONE	ACDB CLIMATE ZONE	LOCATION CODE	LOCATION NAME	POSTCODE	STATE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE
1	CZ0101	DA	Darwin	800	NT	130.9	-12.4
2	CZ0110	HE	Pt Hedland	6721	WA	118.6	-20.4
3	CZ0304	LO	Longreach	4730	QLD	144.3	-23.4
4	CZ0307	CR	Carnarvon	6701	WA	113.7	-24.9
5	CZ0109	TO	Townsville	4810	QLD	146.8	-19.3
6	CZ0306	AL	Alice Springs	870	NT	133.9	-23.8
7	CZ0202	RO	Rockhampton	4700	QLD	150.5	-23.4
8	CZ0404	MO	Moree	2400	NSW	149.9	-29.5
9	CZ0206	AM	Amberley	4306	QLD	152.7	-27.6
10	CZ0205	BR	Brisbane	4000	QLD	153.1	-27.4

NATHERS CLIMATE ZONE	ACDB CLIMATE ZONE	LOCATION CODE	LOCATION NAME	POSTCODE	STATE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE
11	CZ0207	CH	Coffs Harbour	2450	NSW	153.1	-30.3
12	CZ0503	GE	Geraldton	6530	WA	114.7	-28.8
13	CZ0505	PE	Perth	6000	WA	115.9	-31.9
14	CZ0701	AA	Armidale (old Tamworth)	2350	NSW	151.7	-30.5
15	CZ0509	WE	Williamtown	2300	NSW	151.8	-32.8
16	CZ0514	AD	Adelaide	5000	SA	138.6	-34.9
17	CZ0512	SY	Sydney RO (Observatory Hill)	2000	NSW	151.2	-33.9
18	CZ0604	NO	Nowra	2541	NSW	150.5	-35
19	CZ0310	CV	Charleville	4470	QLD	146.3	-26.4
20	CZ0414	WA	Wagga	2650	NSW	147.5	-35.2
21	CZ0609	ME	Melbourne RO	3000	VIC	145	-37.8
22	CZ0612	SE	East Sale	3852	VIC	147.1	-38.1
23	CZ0707	LT	Launceston (Ti Tree Bend)	7250	TAS	147.1	-41.4
24	CZ0703	CA	Canberra	2600	ACT	149.2	-35.3
25	CZ0801	CM	Cabramurra (old Alpine)	2629	NSW	148.4	-35.9
26	CZ0709	HO	Hobart	7000	TAS	147.5	-42.8
27	CZ0413	MI	Mildura	3500	VIC	142.1	-34.2
28	CZ0602	RI	Richmond	2753	NSW	150.8	-33.6
29	CZ0102	WP	Weipa	4874	QLD	141.9	-12.7
30	CZ0104	WY	Wyndham	6740	WA	128.1	-15.5
31	CZ0105	WS	Willis Island	4871	QLD	150	-16.3
32	CZ0106	CN	Cairns	4870	QLD	145.8	-16.9
33	CZ0108	BM	Broome	6725	WA	122.2	-18
34	CZ0111	LM	Learmonth	6707	WA	114.1	-22.2
35	CZ0201	MK	Mackay	4740	QLD	149.2	-21.1
36	CZ0203	GL	Gladstone	4680	QLD	151.3	-23.9
37	CZ0301	HA	Halls Creek	6770	WA	127.7	-18.2
38	CZ0302	TE	Tennant Creek	860	NT	134.1	-19.6
39	CZ0303	IS	Mt Isa	4825	QLD	149.2	-21.1
40	CZ0305	NE	Newman	6753	WA	119.7	-23.4
41	CZ0401	GI	Giles	6438	WA	128.3	-25
42	CZ0402	MT	Meekatharra	6642	WA	118.5	-26.6
43	CZ0403	OO	Oodnadatta	5734	SA	135.5	-27.6
44	CZ0406	KA	Kalgoorlie	6430	WA	121.5	-30.8
45	CZ0408	WO	Woomera	5720	SA	136.8	-31.2
46	CZ0409	CO	Cobar	2835	NSW	145.8	-31.5
47	CZ0410	BI	Bickley	6076	WA	116.1	-32

NATHERS CLIMATE ZONE	ACDB CLIMATE ZONE	LOCATION CODE	LOCATION NAME	POSTCODE	STATE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE
48	CZ0411	DU	Dubbo	2830	NSW	148.6	-32.2
49	CZ0412	KT	Katanning	6317	WA	117.6	-33.7
50	CZ0501	OA	Oakey	4401	QLD	151.7	-27.4
51	CZ0504	FO	Forrest	6434	WA	128.1	-30.8
52	CZ0506	SW	Swanbourne	6010	WA	115.8	-32
53	CZ0507	CE	Ceduna	5690	SA	133.7	-32.1
54	CZ0508	MD	Mandurah	6210	WA	115.7	-32.5
55	CZ0510	EP	Esperance	6450	WA	121.9	-33.8
56	CZ0513	MA	Mascot (Sydney Airport)	2020	NSW	151.2	-33.9
57	CZ0603	MJ	Manjimup	6258	WA	116.1	-34.2
58	CZ0605	AB	Albany	6330	WA	117.8	-35
59	CZ0606	ML	Mt Lofty	5240	SA	138.7	-35
60	CZ0607	TU	Tullamarine (Melbourne Airport)	3020	VIC	144.9	-37.7
61	CZ0610	MG	Mt Gambier	5290	SA	140.8	-37.8
62	CZ0611	MR	Moorabbin	3189	VIC	145.1	-38
63	CZ0613	WR	Warrnambool	3280	VIC	142.4	-38.3
64	CZ0614	OT	Cape Otway	3220	VIC	143.5	-38.9
65	CZ0702	OR	Orange	2800	NSW	149.1	-33.4
66	CZ0705	BA	Ballarat	3350	VIC	143.8	-37.5
67	CZ0706	LD	Low Head	7253	TAS	146.8	-41.1
68	CZ0708	LU	Launceston Airport	7120	TAS	147.2	-41.5
69	CZ0802	TH	Thredbo (Village)	2625	NSW	148.3	-36.5
70	CZ0502	TW	Toowoomba	4350	QLD	151.9	-27.6
71	CZ0107	AT	Atherton	4880	QLD	145.5	-17.3
72	CZ0405	RX	Roxby Downs	5725	SA	136.9	-30.5
73	CZ0204	MN	Maleny	4552	QLD	152.9	-26.8
74	CZ0103	KN	Katherine	853	NT	132.3	-14.4
75	CZ0515	AC	Adelaide Coastal (AMO)	5950	SA	138.5	-35
76	CZ0407	TA	Tamworth	2340	NSW	150.8	-31.1
77	CZ0511	PA	Parramatta	2200	NSW	151	-33.8
78	CZ0704	SU	Sub-Alpine (Cooma Airport)	2630	NSW	149	-36.3
79	CZ0601	BL	Blue Mountains	2785	NSW	149	-21.5
80	CZ0608	CS	Coldstream	3770	VIC	145.4	-37.7
81	CZ0516	BU	Busselton	6280	WA	115.4	-33.7
82	CZ0208	GM	Glasshouse mountains	4519	QLD	153	-27
83	CZ0112	XI	Christmas Island	6798	WA	96.8	-12.2

2.3 EnergyPlus weather file (.epw) format

The EnergyPlus weather file format (.epw) is a text format with variable values separated by commas. The file structure is shown in Table 2. A sample of the data is shown in Figure 2.

The format is based on TMY2 which is a strict, position-specific format, with missing data filled with nines. SI units were used for all the data. Each weather file has basic (header) information followed by time step data.

The first eight lines provide basic information, including longitude, latitude, time zone, elevation, annual design conditions, monthly average ground temperatures, typical and extreme periods, holidays/daylight savings periods, and data periods.

The remaining lines provide time step data, including Dry Bulb Temperature, Dew Point Temperature, Relative Humidity, Atmospheric Station Pressure, Radiation (Extraterrestrial Horizontal, Extraterrestrial Direct Normal, Horizontal Infrared Radiation from Sky, Global Horizontal, Direct Normal, Diffuse Horizontal), Illuminance (Global Horizontal, Direct Normal, Diffuse Horizontal, Zenith), Wind (Direction, Speed), Sky Cover (Total, Opaque, Visibility, Ceiling Height), Present Weather (Observation, Codes), Precipitable Water, Aerosol Optical Depth, and Snow (Depth, Days Since Last Snowfall).

Table 2 EnergyPlus (.epw) weather file format (adapted from Crawley, Lawrie and Hand, 1999)

LOCATION, A1 [City], A2 [State Province Region], A3 [Country], A4 [Data Source], N1 [WMO Number], N2 [Latitude {+N –S: -90.0 to +90.0: degrees minutes in decimal}], N3 [Longitude {-W +E: -180.0 to +180.0:degrees minutes in decimal}], N4 [Time Zone {-12.00 to +12.00: GMT-12 to GMT+12: partial hours in decimal}], N5 [Elevation {m: -1000.0 to +9999.9}],

DESIGN CONDITIONS, N1 [Annual Extreme Daily Mean Maximum Dry Bulb Temp {C}], N2 [Annual Extreme Daily Mean Minimum Dry Bulb Temp {C}], N3 [Annual Extreme Daily Standard Deviation Maximum Dry Bulb Temp {C}], N4 [Annual Extreme Daily Standard Deviation Minimum Dry Bulb Temp {C}], N5 [99.6% Heating Dry Bulb Temp {C}], N6 [99% Heating Dry Bulb Temp {C}],N7 [98% Heating Dry Bulb Temp {C}],N8 [0.4% Cooling Dry Bulb Temp {C}], N9 [0.4% Mean Coincident Wet Bulb Temp{C}], N10 [1.0% Cooling Dry Bulb Temp {C}], N11 [1.0% Mean Coincident Wet Bulb Temp {C}], N12 [2.0% Cooling Dry Bulb Temp {C}], N13 [2.0% Mean Coincident Wet Bulb Temp {C}], N14 [0.4% Cooling Dew Point Temp {C}], N15 [0.4% Mean Coincident Dry Bulb Temp {C}], N16 [0.4% Humidity Ratio {g/kg}], N17 [0.4% Relative Humidity], N18 [1.0% Cooling Dew Point Temp {C}], N19 [1.0% Mean Coincident Dry Bulb Temp {C}], N20 [1.0% Humidity Ratio {g/kg}], N21 [1.0% Relative Humidity], N22 [2.0% Cooling Dew Point Temp {C}], N23 [2.0% Mean Coincident Dry Bulb Temp {C}], N24 [2.0% Humidity Ratio {g/kg}], N25 [2.0% Relative Humidity], N26 [Daily Range of Dry Bulb Temp {C}], N27 [Heating Degree Days Base Temp {C}], N28 [Heating Degree Days], N29 [Cooling Degree Days Base Temp {C}], N30 [Cooling Degree Days]

TYPICAL/EXTREME PERIODS, N1 [Number of Typical/Extreme Periods], A1[Typical/Extreme Period 1], A2 [Period 1 Start Day], A3 [Period 1 End Day], A4 [Typical/Extreme Period 2], A5 [Period 2 Start Day], A6 [Period 2 End Day], A7 [Typical/Extreme Period 3], A8 [Period 3 Start Day], A9 [Period 3 End Day], A10 [Typical/Extreme Period 4], A11 [Period 4 Start Day], A12 [Period 4 End Day], A13 [Typical/Extreme Period 5], A14 [Period 5 Start Day], A15 [Period 5 End Day], A16 [Typical/Extreme Period 6], A17 [Period 6 Start Day], A18 [Period 6 End Day], A19 [Typical/Extreme Period 7], A20 [Period 7 Start Day], A21 [Period 7 End Day], A22 [Typical/Extreme Period 8], A23 [Period 8 Start Day], A24 [Period 8 End Day]

GROUND TEMPERATURES, N1 [Number of Ground Temp Depths], N2 [Ground Temp Depth 1 {m}], N3 [Depth 1 Soil Conductivity {W/(mK)}], N4 [Depth 1 Soil Density {kg/m3}], N5 [Depth 1 Soil Specific Heat {kJ/(kgK)}], N6 [Depth 1 January Average Ground Temp {C}], N7 [Depth 1 February Average Ground Temp {C}], N8 [Depth 1 March Average Ground Temp {C}], N9 [Depth 1 April Average Ground Temp {C}], N10 [Depth 1 May Average Ground Temp {C}], N11 [Depth 1 June Average Ground Temp {C}], N12 [Depth 1 July Average Ground Temp {C}], N13 [Depth 1 August Average Ground Temp {C}], N14 [Depth 1 September Average Ground Temp {C}], N15 [Depth 1 October Average Ground Temp {C}], N16 [Depth 1 November Average Ground Temp {C}], N17 [Depth 1 December Average Ground Temp {C}], N18 [Ground Temp Depth 2{m}], N19 [Depth 2 Soil Conductivity {W/(mK)}], N20 [Depth 2 Soil Density {kg/m3}], N21 [Depth 2 Soil Specific Heat {kJ/(kgK)}], N22 [Depth 2 January Average Ground Temp {C}], N23 [Depth 2 February Average Ground Temp {C}], N24 [Depth 2 March Average Ground Temp {C}], N25 [Depth 2 April Average Ground Temp {C}], N26 [Depth 2 May Average Ground Temp {C}], N27 [Depth 2 June Average Ground Temp {C}], N28 [Depth 2 July Average Ground Temp {C}], N29 [Depth 2 August Average Ground Temp {C}], N30 [Depth 2 September Average Ground Temp {C}], N31 [Depth 2 October Average Ground Temp {C}], N32 [Depth 2 November Average Ground Temp {C}], N33 [Depth 2 December Average Ground Temp {C}], N34 [Ground Temp Depth 3 {m}], N35 [Depth 3 Soil Conductivity {W/(mK)}], N36 [Depth 3 Soil Density {kg/m3}], N37 [Depth 3 Soil Specific Heat {kJ/(kgK)}], N38 [Depth 3 January Average Ground Temp {C}], N39 [Depth 3 February Average Ground Temp {C}], N40 [Depth 3 March Average Ground Temp {C}], N41 [Depth 3 April Average Ground Temp {C}], N42 [Depth 3 May Average Ground Temp {C}], N43 [Depth 3 June Average Ground Temp {C}], N44 [Depth 3 July Average Ground Temp {C}], N45 [Depth 3 August Average Ground Temp {C}], N46 [Depth 3 September Average Ground Temp {C}], N47 [Depth 3 October Average Ground Temp {C}], N48 [Depth 3 November Average Ground Temp {C}], N49 [Depth 3 December Average Ground Temp {C}]

HOLIDAYS/DAYLIGHT SAVINGS, A1 [Day of Week], A2 [Daylight Savings Start Day], A3 [Daylight Savings End Day], N1 [Number of Holidays], A4 [Holiday 1 Name], A5 [Holiday 1 Day], ... , Ax [Holiday N Name], Ay [Holiday N Day]

COMMENTS 1, A1 [Comments 1]

COMMENTS 2, A1 [Comments 2]

DATA PERIODS, N1 [Number of Data Periods], A1 [Data Period 1 Name/Description], A2 [Data Period 1 Start Day], A3 [Data Period 1 End Day], A4 [Data Period 2 Name/Description], A5 [Data Period 2 Start Day], A6 [Data Period 2 End Day], A7 [Data Period 3 Name/Description], A8 [Data Period 3 Start Day], A9 [Data Period 3 End Day], A10 [Data Period 4 Name/Description], A11 [Data Period 4 Start Day], A12 [Data Period 4 End Day], A13 [Data Period 5 Name/Description], A14 [Data Period 5 Start Day], A15 [Data Period 5 End Day], A16 [Data Period 6 Name/Description], A17 [Data Period 6 Start Day], A18 [Data Period 6 End Day], A19 [Data Period 7 Name/Description], A20 [Data Period 7 Start Day], A21 [Data Period 7 End Day], A22 [Data Period 8 Name/Description], A23 [Data Period 8 Start Day], A24 [Data Period 8 End Day], A25 [Data Period 9 Name/Description], A26 [Data Period 9 Start Day], A27 [Data Period 9 End Day], A28 [Data Period 10 Name/Description], A29 [Data Period 10 Start Day], A30 [Data Period 10 End Day], A31 [Data Period 11 Name/Description], A32 [Data Period 11 Start Day], A33 [Data Period 11 End Day], A34 [Data Period 12 Name/Description], A35 [Data Period 12 Start Day], A36 [Data Period 12 End Day]

N1 [Year], N2 [Month {1-12}], N3 [Day {1-31}], N4 [Hour {0-23}], N5 [Minute {0-59}], A1 [Data Source and Uncertainty Flags], N6 [Dry Bulb Temp {C}], N7 [Dew Point Temp {C}], N8 [Relative Humidity {0.0 to 1.0}], N9 [Atmospheric Station Pressure {mb}], N10 [Extraterrestrial Horizontal Radiation {Wh/m²}], N11 [Extraterrestrial Direct Normal Radiation {Wh/m²}], N12 [Horizontal Infrared Radiation from Sky {Wh/m²}], N13 [Global Horizontal Radiation {Wh/m²}], N14 [Direct Normal Radiation {Wh/m²}], N15 [Diffuse Horizontal Radiation {Wh/m²}], N16 [Global Horizontal Illuminance {lux}], N17 [Direct Normal Illuminance {lux}], N18 [Diffuse Horizontal Illuminance {lux}], N19 [Zenith Luminance {Cd/m²}], N20 [Wind Direction {degrees}], N21 [Wind Speed {m/s}], N22 [Total Sky Cover], N23 [Opaque Sky Cover], N24 [Visibility {km}], N25 [Ceiling Height {m}], N26 [Present Weather Observation], A2 [Present Weather Codes], N27 [Precipitable Water {mm}], N28 [Aerosol Optical Depth {thousandths}], N29 [Snow Depth {cm}], N30 [Days Since Last Snowfall]

LOCATION,Mascot (Sydney AP),NSW,Australia,NatHERS-TMY2 BoM 66037 CZ0513,947670,-33.94,151.17,10.0,5

DESIGN CONDITIONS,0

TYPICAL/EXTREME PERIODS,0

GROUND TEMPERATURES,0

HOLIDAYS/DAYLIGHT SAVING,No,0,0,0

COMMENTS 1,TMY2 months selected from 1990- 2016 out of 26 years of data; after Marion & Urban (1995), US National Renewable Energy Lab, NREL/SP-463-7668. Data reliability GOOD.

COMMENTS 2,Weights: T_dry 0.20, T_dew 0.20, Wind 0.10, R_glob 0.25, R_dir 0.25. Details in NIWA Client report 2019175WN, Ben Liley <Ben.Liley@niwa.co.nz>, Apr 2020.

DATA PERIODS,1,1,TMY2 Year,Sunday,1/1,12/31

2070,01,01,01,60,E8E8E8E8?0?3?3?3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7E8E8?0?0E8?0?0?0,20.7,12.5,59,101800,0,1407,9999,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,315,2.4,1,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,23,0.999,99,99

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2070,01,01,04,60,A7A7A7A7?0?3?3?3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,20.3,12.3,59,101600,0,1407,9999,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,337,2.9,1,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,22,0.999,99,99

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2070,01,01,12,60,A7A7A7A7?0A3A3D3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,27.0,10.9,36,101600,1341,1407,9999,1104,1093,61,116454,103322,14882,715,45,4.0,0.99,9999,999999,9,999999999,20,0.999,99,99

2070,01,01,13,60,A7A7A7A7?0A3A3D3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,27.9,10.6,33,101600,1381,1407,9999,1135,1081,72,116253,103320,14759,964,45,5.8,0.99,9999,999999,9,999999999,20,0.999,99,99

2070,01,01,14,60,A7A7A7A7?0A3A3D3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,28.4,10.5,32,101500,1348,1407,9999,1107,1094,59,109506,103117,13644,696,45,7.9,0.99,9999,999999,9,999999999,21,0.999,99,99

2070,01,01,15,60,A7A7A7A7?0A3A3D3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,29.0,10.9,32,101500,1245,1407,9999,1011,1097,49,96695,102103,11794,391,45,8.2,0.99,9999,999999,9,999999999,20,0.999,99,99

2070,01,01,16,60,A7A7A7A7?0A3A3D3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,28.4,10.2,31,101400,1077,1407,9999,862,1092,42,79218,100550,9414,226,45,7.9,0.99,9999,999999,9,999999999,22,0.999,99,99

2070,01,01,17,60,A7A7A7A7?0A3A3D3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,28.3,11.5,35,101400,857,1407,9999,664,1056,33,55871,92101,8104,158,45,8.2,1,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,22,0.999,99,99

2070,01,01,18,60,A7A7A7A7?0A3A3D3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,27.9,11.5,36,101400,600,1407,9999,426,927,31,30087,71823,7243,122,45,7.9,3.99,9999,999999,9,999999999,23,0.999,99,99

2070,01,01,19,60,A7A7A7A7?0A3A3D3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,26.6,12.4,41,101500,322,1407,9999,172,535,49,3153,57,3156,111,45,7.4,8,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,25,0.999,99,99

2070,01,01,20,60,A7A7A7A7?0A3A3D3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,25.6,13.5,46,101600,44,1407,9999,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,45,6.4,1,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,26,0.999,99,99

2070,01,01,21,60,A7A7A7A7?0?3?3?3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,24.9,14.1,50,101600,0,1407,9999,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,22,6.9,1,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,27,0.999,99,99

2070,01,01,22,60,A7A7A7A7?0?3?3?3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,24.3,14.5,54,101700,0,1407,9999,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,45,4.5,2,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,28,0.999,99,99

2070,01,01,23,60,A7A7A7A7?0?3?3?3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,24.2,15.0,56,101700,0,1407,9999,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,45,4.5,2,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,28,0.999,99,99

2070,01,01,24,60,A7A7A7A7?0?3?3?3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,23.3,15.5,61,101700,0,1407,9999,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,45,4.5,2,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,29,0.999,99,99

2070,01,02,01,60,A7A7A7A7?0?3?3?3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,23.1,15.6,62,101700,0,1407,9999,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,45,2.4,1,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,29,0.999,99,99

2070,01,02,02,60,A7A7A7E8?0?3?3?3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,23.0,15.8,63,101600,0,1407,9999,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,22,2.4,1,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,29,0.999,99,99

2070,01,02,03,60,A7A7A7A7?0?3?3?3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,21.9,15.6,67,101600,0,1407,9999,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,337,1.8,1,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,28,0.999,99,99

2070,01,02,04,60,A7A7A7A7?0?3?3?3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,21.9,15.3,65,101600,0,1407,9999,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,360,1.3,1,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,28,0.999,99,99

2070,01,02,05,60,A7A7A7A7?0?3?3?3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,20.9,15.3,70,101600,0,1407,9999,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,315,2.1,1,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,28,0.999,99,99

2070,01,02,06,60,A7A7A7A7?0A3A3D3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,20.9,15.3,70,101700,13,1407,9999,4,1,4,7750,2154,4258,23,315,2.4,1,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,28,0.999,99,99

2070,01,02,07,60,A7A7A7A7?0A3A3D3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,21.7,15.0,65,101700,290,1407,9999,162,531,52,28988,56931,8647,88,337,2.1,1,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,28,0.999,99,99

2070,01,02,08,60,A7A7A7A7?0A3A3D3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,23.8,15.0,57,101800,569,1407,9999,396,849,52,56934,90188,7128,119,337,2.4,1,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,26,0.999,99,99

2070,01,02,09,60,A7A7A7A7?0A3A3D3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,25.4,14.2,49,101800,829,1407,9999,632,994,45,79744,99804,8701,162,360,4.8,1,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,24,0.999,99,99

2070,01,02,10,60,A7A7A7A7?0A3A3D3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,26.5,12.6,41,101800,1054,1407,9999,834,1045,50,97193,102142,11042,243,22,5.5,1,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,22,0.999,99,99

2070,01,02,11,60,A7A7A7A7?0A3A3D3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,27.9,11.8,36,101800,1228,1407,9999,985,1052,65,108747,102994,11958,376,45,7.9,2,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,20,0.999,99,99

2070,01,02,12,60,A7A7A7A7?0A3A3D3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,28.3,10.5,32,101800,1340,1407,9999,1077,1041,85,114034,102750,12317,605,22,8.2,1,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,20,0.999,99,99

2070,01,02,13,60,A7A7A7A7?0A3A3D3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,29.3,10.3,30,101700,1381,1407,9999,1104,1020,102,114414,103691,11487,763,22,7.9,0.99,9999,999999,9,999999999,22,0.999,99,99

2070,01,02,14,60,A7A7A7A7?0A3A3D3I4I4I6I5A7A7A7?0?0A7?0?0?0,29.9,11.3,31,101700,1348,1407,9999,1081,1043,80,108524,103569,11195,585,45,8.8,1,99,9999,999999,9,999999999,23,0.999,99,99

Figure 2 Sample of .epw format data

3 CSIRO methodology for converting weather files in NatHERS format to .epw format

In 2016, the New Zealand National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) developed typical meteorological year weather files suitable for use in Australian residential building energy simulations which use Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) software (NIWA 2017). These weather files are known as Reference Meteorological Year (RMY) weather files. They are based on 26 years of historical weather data from the period 1990-2015. The NatHERS RMY weather file has a position-specific text format. The file structure is shown in Figure 3. A sample of the data is shown in Figure 4. Weather data includes dry bulb temperature, absolute humidity, atmospheric pressure, wind (speed, direction), solar radiation (global, direct, diffuse), cloud cover, solar altitude, and solar azimuth.

To make these files suitable for use by software such as EnergyPlus, ESP-r, and IESVE, some parameters were added, and the file was converted to the format (.epw) required by the software. The EnergyPlus (.epw) format requires some variables that are not contained in the NatHERS RMY format, such as relative humidity and dew point temperature. The critical variables were derived from variables contained within the NatHERS RMY files. Other values were filled with values from a version of the 2016 TMY weather files that was created by a third party (referred to as '2016 Non-CSIRO TMY weather files').

Relative Humidity and Dew Point Temperature were calculated using the NatHERS variables Dry Bulb Temperature, Absolute Humidity, and Atmospheric Pressure as described in Equations 6-10 (Snyder 2005, Buck 1981).

$$RH = \frac{P_v}{P_s} \times 100 \quad (6)$$

$$P_v = \frac{AH \times (T + 273.16)}{2165} \quad (7)$$

$$P_s = (1.0007 + 3.46 \times P \times 10^{-6}) \times 6.1121 \times e^{17.502T/(240.97+T)} \quad (8)$$

$$T_d = \frac{237.3 \times b}{1 - b} \quad (9)$$

$$b = \frac{LN\left(\frac{RH}{100}\right)}{17.27} + \frac{T}{237.3 + T} \quad (10)$$

Where:

- RH is the relative humidity (%)
- P_v is the vapour pressure of the air (mbar)
- P_s is the saturation vapour pressure of the air (mbar)
- AH is the absolute humidity (g/m^3)
- T is the dry-bulb temperature of the air ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)
- P is the absolute pressure of the air (mbar)
- T_d is the dew point temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

Some variables have different units and conversion was necessary to account for this (e.g. conversion from kPa to mb for Atmospheric Pressure). Table 3 summarises the origin of each variable value in the EnergyPlus (.epw) format.

Characters	Item
1 - 2	location identification (e.g. ME represents Melbourne)
3 - 4	year (e.g. 67)
5 - 6	month (i.e. 1 - 12)
7 - 8	day (i.e. 1 - 31)
9 - 10	hour standard (i.e. 0-23, 0 = midnight)
11 - 14	dry bulb temperature (10-1 °C)
15 - 17	absolute moisture content (10-1 g/kg)
18 - 21	atmospheric pressure (10-1 kPa)
22 - 24	wind speed (10-1 m/s)
25 - 26	wind direction (0-16; 0 = CALM. 1 = NNE , ..., 16 = N)
27	total cloud cover (oktas, 0 - 8)
28	flag relating to dry bulb temperature
29	flag relating to absolute moisture content
30	flag relating to atmospheric pressure
31	flag relating to wind speed and direction
32	flag relating to total cloud cover
33	blank
34 - 37	global solar irradiance on a horizontal plane (W/m2)
38 - 40	diffuse solar irradiance on a horizontal plane (W/m2)
41 - 44	direct solar irradiance on a plane normal to the beam (W/m2)
45 - 46	solar altitude (degrees, 0-90)
47 - 49	solar azimuth (degrees, 0-360)
50	flag relating to global and diffuse solar irradiance
51	flag }
52 - 56	Australian Met Station Number } Some locations only
57 - 61	wet bulb temperature (10-1 °C) }
62 - 81	Station name (first line only) }
Values for flags relating to standard surface meteorological data (columns 28 - 32)	
0	means that the value is measured value
1	means that the value is estimated to replace a missing measurement
2	means that the value is an interpolating between three-hourly measurements
3	missing value
Values for flag relating to solar radiation data (column 50)	
0	means that both global and diffuse irradiance values are based on measurements
1	means that both global and diffuse irradiance values are estimated to replace a missing measurement
2	means that the global irradiance value is based on measurement but the diffuse irradiance value is estimated to replace a missing measurement
3	missing value or estimated value from cloud cover data
4	interpolated value from three hourly data

Figure 3 NatHERS weather file structure

MA120101	0	207	951018	24141000010	0	0	0	018131320
MA120101	1	208	951016	25151111210	0	0	0	016531320
MA120101	2	209	951016	29151000010	0	0	0	015031320
MA120101	3	203	941016	29151000010	0	0	0	013731320
MA120101	4	190	931016	24141000000	0	0	0	012731320
MA120101	5	192	951016	24161000000	5	5	4	111800020
MA120101	6	196	951017	29151000000	176	42	6371211000020	
MA120101	7	210	951017	29141000000	416	37	9332410300020	
MA120101	8	234	871017	55161000000	655	32105636	9500020	
MA120101	9	251	871017	34160000000	862	42110649	8700020	
MA12010110	265	871017	40160000000	1007	49109861	7600020		
MA12010111	270	871016	40	210000001104	61109372	5600020		
MA12010112	279	861016	58	200000001135	72108179	400020		
MA12010113	284	861015	79	200000001107	5910947330700020			
MA12010114	290	881015	82	200000001011	4910976228500020			
MA12010115	284	841014	79	200000000	862	4210925027400020		
MA12010116	283	921014	82	200000000	664	3310563826600020		
MA12010117	279	921014	79	210000000	426	31	9272525800020	
MA12010118	266	971015	74	230000000	172	49	5351325100020	
MA12010119	2561041016	64	270000000	0	0	0	224300020	
MA12010120	2491071016	69	110000000	0	0	0	023400020	
MA12010121	2431101017	45	210000000	0	0	0	022431320	
MA12010122	2421131017	45	220000000	0	0	0	021231320	
MA12010123	2331161017	45	220000000	0	0	0	019731320	
MA120102	0	2311171017	24	220000000	0	0	0	018131320
MA120102	1	2301191016	24	110000000	0	0	0	016531320
MA120102	2	2191171016	18151001000	0	0	0	015031320	
MA120102	3	2191151016	13161000000	0	0	0	013731320	
MA120102	4	2091151016	21141000000	0	0	0	012731320	
MA120102	5	2091141017	24141000000	4	4	1	111800020	
MA120102	6	2171131017	21151000000	162	52	5311211000020		
MA120102	7	2381131018	24151000000	396	52	8492410300020		
MA120102	8	2541081018	48161000000	632	45	99436	9500020	
MA120102	9	265	981018	55	110000000	834	50104549	8700020
MA12010210	279	931018	79	210000000	985	65105261	7600020	
MA12010211	283	851018	82	120000001077	85104172	5600020		
MA12010212	293	851017	79	100000001104102102079	400020			
MA12010213	299	911017	88	200000001081	8010437330800020			
MA12010214	296	961016	98	210000000	994	5510596228600020		
MA12010215	2931001016	98	200000000	845	4110495027400020			
MA12010216	2841031015	93	200000000	641	36	9913826600020		
MA12010217	2781111015	98	210000000	401	50	8212525800020		
MA12010218	2771171015	98	240000000	157	62	4171325100020		
MA12010219	2651161016109	270000000	0	0	0	224300020		
MA12010220	2591181016	88	110000000	0	0	0	023500020	
MA12010221	2541171017	82	110000000	0	0	0	022431320	
MA12010222	2521171017	79	11000010	0	0	0	021231320	

Figure 4 Sample of NatHERS weather file data

Table 3 Origin of weather variables in .epw files

ENERGYPLUS (.EPW) VARIABLE	ORIGIN
Dry Bulb Temp	NatHERS Dry bulb temperature with change of unit
Dew Point Temp	Calculated using NatHERS Dry Bulb Temperature, Absolute Moisture Content, and Atmospheric Pressure (Eq 6-10)
Relative Humidity	Calculated using NatHERS Dry Bulb Temperature, Absolute Moisture Content, and Atmospheric Pressure (Eq 6-8)
Atmospheric Station Pressure	NatHERS Atmospheric pressure with change of unit
Extraterrestrial Horizontal Radiation	As per 2016 Non-CSIRO TMY
Extraterrestrial Direct Normal Radiation	As per 2016 Non-CSIRO TMY
Horizontal Infrared Radiation from Sky	As per 2016 Non-CSIRO TMY
Global Horizontal Radiation	As per 2016 Non-CSIRO TMY
Direct Normal Radiation	As per 2016 Non-CSIRO TMY
Diffuse Horizontal Radiation	As per 2016 Non-CSIRO TMY
Global Horizontal Illuminance	As per 2016 Non-CSIRO TMY
Direct Normal Illuminance	As per 2016 Non-CSIRO TMY
Diffuse Horizontal Illuminance	As per 2016 Non-CSIRO TMY
Zenith Luminance	As per 2016 Non-CSIRO TMY
Wind Direction	2016 RMY NatHERS Wind direction with change of unit
Wind Speed	NatHERS Wind speed with change of unit
Total Sky Cover	As per 2016 Non-CSIRO TMY
Opaque Sky Cover	As per 2016 Non-CSIRO TMY
Visibility	As per 2016 Non-CSIRO TMY
Ceiling Height	As per 2016 Non-CSIRO TMY
Present Weather Observation	As per 2016 Non-CSIRO TMY
Present Weather Codes	As per 2016 Non-CSIRO TMY
Precipitable Water	As per 2016 Non-CSIRO TMY
Aerosol Optical Depth	As per 2016 Non-CSIRO TMY
Snow Depth	As per 2016 Non-CSIRO TMY
Days Since Last Snowfall	As per 2016 Non-CSIRO TMY

3.1.1 Time period

The NatHERS format uses hours 0, 1, 2, 3, ..., 23, whereas the EnergyPlus (.epw) format uses hours 1, 2, 3, ..., 24.

In the previous versions of the Typical meteorological year weather files in .epw format, when NatHERS data was converted to .epw format, NatHERS hour values were mapped to .epw hour values as follows: 0->1, 1->2, 2->3, ..., 23->24.

In the current version of the dataset, when NatHERS data is converted to .epw format, NatHERS hour values are mapped to .epw hour values as follows: 0 not used, 1->1, 2->2, ..., 23->23.

For the last hour of each month (.epw hour 24), instead of using a value from the NatHERS RMY dataset (e.g. from hour 0 of the following month), critical variable values have been taken from the third party (non-CSIRO) 2016 TMY dataset. This avoids any potential problems in cases where consecutive months in the RMY/TMY datasets contain data which have been selected from the BOM weather data from different years.

These changes result in a better alignment of variable values with the .epw time period.

3.1.2 Radiation

In the previous version of this dataset, values for the three radiation variables Global Horizontal Radiation, Direct Normal Radiation, and Diffuse Horizontal Radiation were taken from the NatHERS RMY dataset. The current version of the dataset takes these values from the third party (non-CSIRO) 2016 TMY dataset.

The reason for this change is that for the NatHERS RMY dataset, the radiation values are calculated centred around the hour. For example, radiation at hour 9 relates to radiation for the period 8:30AM to 9:30AM. Whereas the .epw format defines radiation values as relating to the hour preceding the stated hour. For example, radiation at hour 9 relates to radiation for the period 8:00AM to 9:00AM.

The radiation values in the third party (non-CSIRO) 2016 TMY dataset are consistent with the .epw understanding of radiation values.

4 QA and feedback process

4.1 QA process

The 2016 RMY weather files were developed and converted to .epw format by the New Zealand National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) under contract from the Australian Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (the department). The department provided these files to the CSIRO who reviewed the files and ran EnergyPlus with a sample of the .epw files.

CSIRO found that the files could be used in EnergyPlus and identified some errors in the data periods, which they rectified.

All of the files were then provided to an independent consultant with access to IES-VE who reviewed them. The consultant found that the files were usable in IES-VE and identified some errors in the relative humidity data (with some values greater than 100%).

The CSIRO addressed these errors by:

1. Replacing the three points of absolute humidity with negative values with the data derived from the two hours before and after these three points using a linear approach
2. Replacing estimated relative humidity greater than 100% with 100%
3. Replacing estimated relative humidity less than 1% with 1% for .epw files
4. Leaving dew point temperature found to be less than -30°C as it was, since there was no reliable data on which to base modification

The independent consultant re-checked a sample of five representative files and found that the errors in the sample had been corrected and the files were usable in IES-VE.

4.2 Feedback process

Please provide feedback on the usability and functionality of this weather data to the CSIRO via the contact details on the Data Shop website. If you are happy to be approached for your advice on how the weather files could be improved, please provide your contact details.

The TMY files have undergone checking and testing and were found to be generally suitable for use on EnergyPlus and IES-VE for modelling commercial buildings in Australia. However the CSIRO and the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (the department) welcome feedback on the usability and functionality of this weather data for the purposes of designing and testing commercial building performance for:

- Compliance to Section J of the National Construction Code
- NABERS commitment agreements
- Green Star
- HVAC sizing

- Building fabric design
- Thermal comfort assessment

In 2022 the department will set up a technical working group to review the success of this project.

The group will be asked to provide feedback on the ease of access to the weather data, its suitability for use by commercial building modellers and the level of awareness of how to access and use the weather data. The group will also be asked to provide suggestions for improvement.

The department will collate the feedback and liaise with the CSIRO to implement improvements which are agreed by the department.

5 Data version control

The dataset is likely to be updated from time to time. This could be due to fixing errors discovered in the data, incorporating new weather data, or other reasons. Older versions of the dataset will still be available if required. The superseded versions will be available in the [Data Shop](#) on the same page as the current version, but clearly marked as archived versions.

Table 4 lists all versions of the dataset 'Typical Meteorological Year weather files in .epw format' that have been available in the Data Shop, the date they were added, and the changes made.

Table 4 Data version control – Typical Meteorological Year weather files in .epw format

DATASET ZIP FILE NAME	DATE ADDED TO DATA SHOP	CHANGES
TMYWeatherFilesEpw_20210712.zip	2021-08-13	First version of dataset publicly available
TMYWeatherFilesEpw_20240528.zip	2024-07-10	Change in way time mapped from NatHERS to .epw format; Change in how radiation data obtained
TMYWeatherFilesEpw_20240821.zip	2024-08-05	Formatting issues fixed: year format 'yy' changed to 'yyyy'; 'DAYLIGHT SAVING' in header changed to 'DAYLIGHT SAVINGS'

References

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