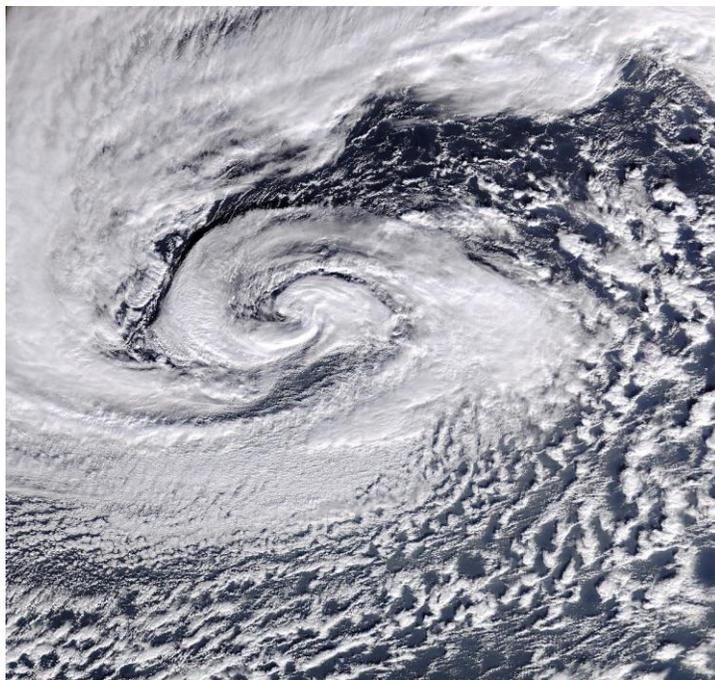




# NEWSLETTER



OF THE  
U.S. GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM



2014 opened with the release of the latest [U.S. Climate Action Report](#), including the first ever U.S. Biennial Report and the sixth quadrennial National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The report laid out steps that the U.S. is taking domestically and internationally to address climate change, particularly highlighting progress in and goals for emissions reductions.

Shortly after the new year, a weakened Polar Vortex sent waves of subzero temperatures into the U.S., adding fuel to the public debate on climate change. The record-breaking cold created an opportunity for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to engage the public on the relationship between climate change and extreme weather, through a [live online discussion](#) and a two-minute [video](#) featuring Director John Holdren.

On the programmatic front, the U.S. Climate Variability and Predictability Program (US CLIVAR) released a new [Science Plan](#) outlining its research goals and strategies for the next 15 years, and the founders of USGCRP received a [Lifetime Achievement Award](#) at Building Climate Solutions, a conference organized by the National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE). Read more below about USGCRP activities at this conference, as well as our new resources website for Federal climate change adaptation planning, our upcoming National Climate Assessment (NCA) engagement workshop, and recent Program staff additions, among other news items.

## NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT

### Workshop on Engagement Activities in Support of the Third NCA

*February 18–19, Washington, DC*

An upcoming [engagement workshop](#) will focus on the rollout of and sustained engagement strategy for the Third NCA report, expected to be released this spring. Authors of the Third NCA, developers of tools supporting the NCA, and communication, education, and outreach experts from within and outside the Federal Government will create frameworks and implementation plans for engagement activities. These frameworks will be made available in the [NCAnet Partners Toolkit](#) as resources for planning engagement activities related to the Third NCA. Plenary sessions will introduce new and developing tools that will support the NCA (e.g., NASA visualizations, the Global Change Information System) and will encourage teams to share progress and collaborate with one another on developing engagement activities. For more information, please contact [Emily Cloyd](#) or refer to the [detailed agenda](#).

### Building Climate Solutions Conference Features NCA Symposium & Workshop

At [Building Climate Solutions](#), NCSE's 14<sup>th</sup> National Conference and Global Forum on Science, Policy and the Environment, a [symposium and workshop](#) were held to explore lessons learned in the process of developing the Third NCA. Participants focused on NCA products and processes intended to improve assessment capacity over time, such as national sea level rise projections, and on innovations in integrated assessment, such as the implications of climate change for complex cross-sectoral issues. In addition, the workshop segment addressed critical issues related to building a sustained (rather than periodic) assessment process.



**Building Climate Solutions**

14<sup>th</sup> National Conference and Global Forum  
on Science, Policy and the Environment  
January 28 - 30, 2014 | Washington, D.C.

National Council for Science and the Environment  
Partnering the scientific base for environmental stewardship

For more information, please click [here](#). Other conference sessions featuring USGCRP representatives included [Climate Adaptation + Mitigation Synergies: Pursuing Implementation Pilots](#) and [Preparing Campuses and Communities for a Changing Climate](#).

## NEWS FROM THE U.S. CARBON CYCLE SCIENCE PROGRAM

### AGU Town Hall on Carbon Cycle Science

The U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program organized a town hall at the American Geophysical Union's 2013 Fall Meeting on the U.S. Government's prioritization of carbon cycle science. Gyami Shrestha of the U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program, members of the Carbon Cycle Interagency Working Group (CCIWG), and Gary Geernaert of the Department of Energy's Climate and Environmental Sciences Division also participated in the panel discussions. For a summary of the town hall discussions, please click [here](#).

## NEWS FROM THE INFORM DECISIONS PROGRAM

### USGCRP Launches New Resources Website for Federal Adaptation Planning and Implementation

USGCRP has created a new [website](#) featuring an easy-to-access collection of resources to help Federal agencies with planning and implementation for climate change adaptation. Resources include relevant Federal executive orders and strategic plans, selected technical reports on adaptation research, frameworks and other information to help agencies adapt their operations to changing climate conditions, and overview reports for higher-level decision makers. The resources collected on the website are designed in part to help agencies meet the requirements outlined in [Executive Order 13653: Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change](#), and in the guidance subsequently provided by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (see below). The website will be updated as new resources are developed and deployed. To explore the new website, please click [here](#).

### New Federal Guidance Released on Implementing Requirements of EO 13653

The Council on Environmental Quality led a GreenGov Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation Planning that focused on the requirements of [Executive Order 13653: Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change](#). Discussions covered the President's Climate Action Plan; the recent meeting of the State, Local, and Tribal Climate Preparedness Task Force; and the role of the Federal Government in adaptation planning. Following the workshop, the Office of the Environmental Executive released guidance to agencies on preparing updated Federal Agency Climate Change Agency Adaptation Plans, per EO 13653. For more information, please contact [Emily Seyller](#).

### AMNex Holds First Webinar on Adaptation and Mitigation Synergies

The NCAnet Adaptation + Mitigation Nexus Affinity Group (AMNex) kicked off the first of a series of monthly webinars in January. The January [webinar](#) focused on "Connecting the Dots: Adaptation + Mitigation Synergies," and was presented by Steve Winkelman, Director of Transportation and Adaptation at the Center for Clean Air Policy (for the webinar slides, please click [here](#)). Over 60 participants attended the webinar from across the U.S. and other countries. AMNex will be hosting monthly webinars that address the synergies between adaptation and mitigation in sectors identified in the draft Third NCA. To join AMNEX, please contact [Emily Seyller](#). For more information about NCAnet, please contact [Emily Cloyd](#).

## NEWS FROM THE GLOBAL CHANGE INFORMATION SYSTEM



### GCIS Featured at ESIP Meeting

The [Federation of Earth Science Information Partners \(ESIP\)](#) held its Winter Meeting in Washington, DC, on January 8–10, 2014. The meeting featured a breakout session and [poster](#) presentation on the [Global Change Information System \(GCIS\)](#) under development at USGCRP. The breakout session laid out the potential for the GCIS to become a unified web-based source for discovery of authoritative, accessible, usable, and timely information about climate and global change for scientists, decision makers, and the public. The initial prototype of the system was also discussed: the GCIS will support the distribution, presentation, and documentation needs of the Third NCA upon its release in spring 2014, integrating that content into [globalchange.gov](#) and demonstrating the potential for the broader,

longer-term application of the GCIS. Other topics covered included the GCIS ontology and challenges and solutions associated with data and traceability. For more information about the ESIP meeting's GCIS breakout session, please click [here](#).

## NEW STAFF AT USGCRP

### **Dr. Fabien Laurier, Director of the Third National Climate Assessment**

USGCRP is pleased to welcome Dr. Laurier back to the Program as the Director of the [Third National Climate Assessment](#). Prior to this assignment with USGCRP and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Laurier served as the Advisor for Climate Change Adaptation for the Council on Environmental Quality, where he worked on developing the [President's Climate Action Plan](#) and implementing [Executive Order 13653: Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change](#). Among other activities, he focused on the scoping and initial development of the Toolkit for Climate Resilience, a web-based resource that will provide easily accessible and timely data, information, and tools in support of climate preparedness decisions. Since 2006, Laurier has worked in various capacities at the USGCRP National Coordination Office, including as Acting Director, Deputy Director, and lead coordinator for the development of the Second National Climate Assessment (2009). Before joining USGCRP, Laurier was a research scientist at the University of Maryland. His work focused on mercury pollution in marine environments and ocean-atmosphere interactions. Laurier received his PhD in Oceanography from La Sorbonne Denis Diderot University (Paris, France) and his Master's degree in Environmental Sciences from the same university.



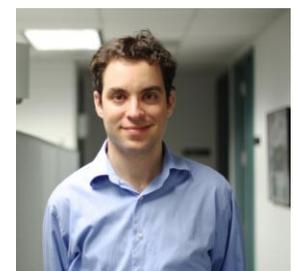
### **Dr. Ilya Fischhoff, Program Coordinator for the National Climate Assessment**

Dr. Fischhoff is continuing his work for the National Climate Assessment in a newly permanent, full-time capacity. He works with authors of several chapters of the NCA, helps to ensure consistency across the report, and, going forward, will become more involved with the Global Change Information System and NCAnet. Previously, Fischhoff was an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the U.S. Agency for International Development, where he worked on climate change adaptation and drafted a proposal for the agency to become carbon neutral. He also served as an AAAS/AGU Congressional Science Fellow with then-Congressman Ed Markey and the House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee. Fischhoff concentrated in Biological Anthropology as an undergraduate at Harvard College and earned his PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Princeton University. He was a postdoctoral fellow at Princeton University, McMaster University, and the Smithsonian Institution. His past research was on movement ecology, collective behavior, and social networks of zebras and other wildlife in Kenya. He also cofounded Greening Princeton, a campus sustainability organization.



### **Dr. Justin Goldstein, Program Specialist for Advance Science**

Dr. Goldstein recently transitioned from an internship in support of the [Global Change Information System \(GCIS\)](#) to his current role as the Advance Science Climate Data and Observing Systems Coordinator. In this capacity, he provides administrative and project management support to USGCRP's ongoing Advance Science efforts. Additionally, he is responsible for collecting and organizing structured metadata pertaining to the Third National Climate Assessment and Indicators projects for inclusion in the developing GCIS. Goldstein's academic background is in Earth system science and hydrology. He holds a BS and an MA in Geography from the University of Maryland and recently received a PhD in Geography from the University of Oklahoma.



### **Amanda McQueen, Intern for the Global Change Information System**

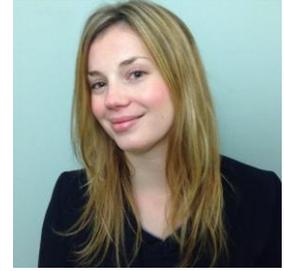
Ms. McQueen joined USGCRP in December, taking over for Dr. Goldstein as the support intern for the [GCIS](#). Her duties include coordinating between the GCIS team and its collaborators, developing and disseminating updates, and other support activities. Concurrently, she is working as a research assistant at The George Washington University's School of Public Health and Health Services, where she is pursuing an MPH in Environmental Health Science and Policy. McQueen earned a BS in Environmental Health from Western Carolina University, with research in the fields of air quality, water quality, and



occupational health. She has served as a U.S. Public Health Service JRCOSTEP (Junior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Externship Program) officer with the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service, a Chemical Incident Screening intern with the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, and a communications coordinator with Life and Safety Consultants, Inc.

### **Cat Wolner, Science Writer and Editor**

Ms. Wolner joined USGCRP in November. As the Science Writer and Editor, she is responsible for overseeing the development of Our Changing Planet, USGCRP's annual report to Congress, which highlights global change research and application activities across USGCRP agencies. She also contributes and edits content for [globalchange.gov](http://globalchange.gov), the USGCRP newsletter, and USGCRP's social media presence. Prior to joining USGCRP, Wolner helped to coordinate grant programs at the National Science Foundation; she has also worked as a freelance science writer/editor. Her graduate work focused on the role of biophysical feedbacks in coastal environmental change. She holds an MS in Environmental Sciences from the University of Virginia and a BA in Geology from Oberlin College.



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The [U.S. Global Change Research Program \(USGCRP\)](#) coordinates and integrates Federal research on changes in the global environment and their implications for society. USGCRP began as a presidential initiative in 1989 and was mandated by Congress in the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-606), which called for "*a comprehensive and integrated United States research program which will assist the Nation and the world to understand, assess, predict, and respond to human-induced and natural processes of global change.*"

The [National Climate Assessment \(NCA\)](#) is conducted under the auspices of the Global Change Research Act of 1990, which requires a report to the President and Congress every four years that evaluates, integrates, and interprets USGCRP findings. The NCA aims to incorporate advances in the understanding of climate science into larger social, ecological, and policy systems, thereby providing integrated analyses of impacts and vulnerability, helping the Federal Government to prioritize climate science investments, and delivering science that can be used by communities throughout our Nation to plan for a more sustainable and environmentally sound future.