



U.S. Global Change
Research Program

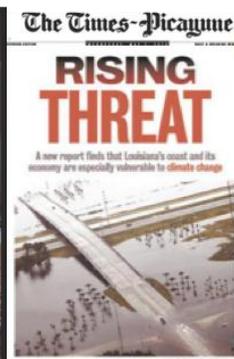
NEWSLETTER

OF THE

U.S. GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM

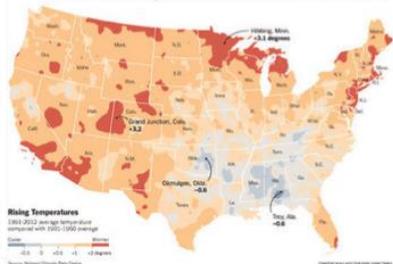


U.S. Global Change Research Program
National Climate
Assessment



The New York Times

U.S. CLIMATE HAS ALREADY CHANGED,
STUDY FINDS, CITING HEAT AND FLOODS



THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

WHITE HOUSE REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE:
MORE THAN A FEAR,
IT'S ALREADY HERE

In California, Climate Issues Moved to Fore by Governor



The momentous release of the [Third National Climate Assessment](#) last month made [headlines nationwide](#), from nationally recognized newspapers to regional, local, and trade publications. On the release day, the White House hosted a [panel event](#) including Assessment authors and stakeholders, while President Obama gave several [interviews with television meteorologists](#) (examples: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)). The Administration also released a suite of shareable NCA-related materials, including a [video](#) of Presidential Science Advisor John Holdren introducing the report, overview fact sheets in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), [state-by-state](#) fact sheets, and [infographics](#) drawing on report findings. Several Administration officials also [hosted Google+ Hangouts](#)

and [office hours](#) focusing on the Third NCA.

Since the report's release, USGCRP's newly redesigned website, [globalchange.gov](#)—which includes the [interactive web-based version of the Third NCA](#)—has received nearly 1,000,000 page views. About a quarter of the site's release-day burst of traffic came from social media, where climate change and the Third NCA trended nationally on [Twitter](#), and over 50,000 people viewed USGCRP's [Facebook](#) posts. Website users have been accessing the NCA [highlights](#) and [full report](#), finding out more about [climate change](#) and [what USGCRP does](#), and [exploring](#) region- and topic-specific resources. Users are also [downloading](#) the Third NCA as a complete PDF or in segments, with 3.4 terabytes downloaded so far—equivalent to nearly 100,000 copies of the full report. Shorter [summary products](#) derived from the report are also available for download, and [print copies](#) of the Overview booklet and Highlights report can be requested. Read on to learn where the National Climate Assessment is headed next, how the report is being used to support Federal adaptation efforts, and what's new in Federal climate science.

MORE NEWS ON THE NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT

NCAnet Spreads the Word

NCAnet, the [network of external organizations](#) working with USGCRP to engage producers and users of assessment information, has been a major player in the successful and far-reaching launch of the Third NCA. NCAnet members created [videos](#) using information from the report to tell stories about Americans on the front lines of climate change; translated NCA materials into [Spanish](#); and organized [past](#) and [upcoming](#) in-person and web-based events featuring NCA authors. Highlights have included webinars about [report findings](#), [regional impacts](#), [health](#), [ecosystems](#), and more; [Congressional briefings](#); panel discussions on topics ranging from the [Southwest to hunger](#); [Reddit Ask Me Anything sessions](#); and a Google+ Hangout on [educational resources](#). Coming up later this month, NCA authors will be at the American Geophysical Union [Science Policy Conference](#) (June 16–18, Washington, DC) and at the [Adaptation in the](#)

[Great Lakes Region Conference](#) (June 24–26, Ann Arbor, MI; [live webcast](#) available). Many of the events have been or will be recorded, so be sure to check the NCAnet [calendar](#) and [archive](#) for more information.

Sustained Assessment Continues the Momentum

Following the release of the Third NCA last month, USGCRP is propelling forward into sustained assessment activities including workshops, special reports, and the pilot launch of a proposed [National Climate Indicators System](#) (below). On June 19–20, stakeholders will convene at the NCA Evaluation Workshop to discuss frameworks for evaluating the Third NCA, including both the development process and the final product. USGCRP’s Scenarios Working Group will host two invitational workshops the following week, covering scenarios for population dynamics (June 23–24) and land use and land cover change (June 25–27). USGCRP and member agencies are also working on a number of special reports as part of the sustained assessment process, covering topics like [climate change and human health](#), forests and drought, and food security.

Coming This Summer: A Pilot Climate Indicators System

As part of the sustained assessment process, USGCRP plans to launch the pilot phase of the proposed [National Climate Indicators System](#) this summer. The proposed system, which was recommended by the NCA & Development Advisory Committee (NCADAC) in February, is intended to inform decision makers and the public about key aspects of climate and related impacts, vulnerabilities, and preparedness. Work is underway to incorporate the pilot indicators system into [globalchange.gov](#), with the underlying data and metadata deployed via the [Global Change Information System](#) (GCIS). The pilot system is intended to be tested and evaluated by both scientists and user communities, with lessons learned informing the development of the system over the next year.

NEWS ON ADVANCING SCIENCE

Progress on Social Sciences Integration

Earlier this year, USGCRP’s Social Sciences Task Force delivered a set of recommendations to the Subcommittee on Global Change Research for integrating social sciences into the USGCRP portfolio. A small Social Sciences Coordinating Committee (SSCC) has been formed to facilitate the implementation of these recommendations across USGCRP’s interagency working groups. Primary tasks for the SSCC include liaising with working groups to monitor existing social sciences efforts; serving as a point of contact for staff and participating scientists seeking advice on incorporating social sciences perspectives; sponsoring meetings and facilitating partnerships for strengthening social sciences integration; and fostering connections between USGCRP and the social sciences research community.

Updates on Carbon Cycle Science

As a component of the President’s [Climate Action Plan](#), the Administration released a strategy in late March for [cutting methane emissions](#); the strategy includes improving the monitoring and measurement of methane emissions and concentrations. In April and May, several strategic workshops and meetings involving the U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program (CCSP) took place, including the [International North Atlantic–Arctic Science Planning Workshop](#) (April 14–16); the biannual [Carbon Cycle Scientific Steering Group meeting](#) (May 8–9); and the [Global Carbon Project Steering Committee meeting](#) in Seoul, South Korea (May 27–29). Lastly, the carbon cycle research community now can stay connected with CCSP in two ways: through the CCSP website at its new address, [carboncyclescience.us](#), and through CCSP’s new [Facebook page](#).

NEWS ON INFORMING DECISIONS

Federal Adaptation Efforts Leverage the Third NCA

Findings from the Third National Climate Assessment played a central role in two major adaptation-focused events last month. USGCRP staff led the translation of NCA science into a read-ahead “playbook” for the Climate Change Adaptation Planning Workshop, part of the Federal Government’s Climate Change Preparedness and Resilience Exercise Series. Held on May 7—the day after the release of the Third NCA—this workshop marked the first use of the report to support Federal adaptation planning. On May 22, the monthly [Interagency Forum on Climate Change Impacts & Adaptation](#) was dedicated to the Third NCA, with USGCRP- and NCADAC-affiliated speakers discussing findings related to health, decision support, and adaptation. The next forum will also focus on the Third NCA and will take place on June 25; contact eseyller@usgcrp.gov or ccforum@fedcenter.gov for details.

NEW STAFF AT USGCRP

Nico Adams, Operations Coordinator

Nico Adams recently joined the NCO as Operations Coordinator. In this position, she provides project management and strategic planning and coordination support to improve integration between operational and programmatic tasks. She also provides additional professional-level advice and implementation support to USGCRP management as needed. Her responsibilities include supporting the Chief of Operations in monitoring the NCO budget; estimating and tracking forthcoming programmatic resource needs; and revising and drafting standard operating procedures for the NCO. Nico has an extensive background in financial institutions, advising senior management on risk management and best practice strategies, and leading organizational and departmental projects; she has also managed operations teams and accounting functions. Nico holds a BS in Accounting from the University of Maryland.



Phil Duffy, Senior Advisor

Dr. Phil Duffy joins USGCRP on assignment from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He advises the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) on climate science, works with the State Department on issues related to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and is involved in the implementation of the President's [Climate Action Plan](#). Previously, Phil served as a Senior Policy Analyst at OSTP and held a number of positions at Climate Central, a non-profit dedicated to increasing public understanding and awareness of climate change. He was also an adjunct faculty member at UC Merced and has held visiting academic posts at Stanford University and at the Carnegie Institution for Science. Phil's areas of expertise include climate modeling, societal impacts of climate change, and climate change adaptation. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Harvard and a PhD in Applied Physics from Stanford University.



Omar Malik, Indicators Research Coordinator

Omar Malik works with the Indicators team to coordinate research efforts and ensure the successful pilot launch of the proposed [National Climate Indicators System](#) this summer. Previously, Omar worked on the Environmental Performance Index at the Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy. Omar has experience in dataset research, policy analysis, and science communication, which he feels is especially important for solving today's global issues. He hopes to stay involved in climate change discussions at the domestic and international levels.



Mark Shimamoto, Health Coordinator

Mark Shimamoto is continuing his work as the Health Coordinator for USGCRP's National Coordination Office in a newly full-time capacity. He oversees the Interagency Crosscutting Group on Climate Change and Human Health Group (CCHHG), with responsibilities including planning, coordination, and execution of the CCHHG's priorities as well as facilitating the integration of health across other USGCRP program areas. Additionally, Mark is a member of the Steering Committee for the [Interagency Special Report on the Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States](#), which is anticipated to be released in late 2015. Prior to joining USGCRP, Mark earned a BA in Social Ecology from the University of California, Irvine, and worked as a Clinical Research Coordinator at UC Irvine's Medical Center. Currently, he is completing an MPH in Environmental Health Science & Policy from the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University.



Summer Interns

New and returning interns have been helping to support a range of USGCRP activities, with terms ranging from a few weeks to the full summer:

- **Tess Carter, National Climate Assessment (returning)**, undergraduate student at Brown University
- **Lauren Cater, Inform Decisions/Adaptation**, Master's candidate at George Washington University
- **Ella Clark, Indicators (returning)**, undergraduate student at University of Maryland
- **Anna Janetos, National Climate Assessment**, soon-to-be undergraduate student at Boston University

- **Mandy Lamoureux, Indicators**, undergraduate student at University of Maryland
- **Olivia Poon, Indicators**, undergraduate student at City College of New York
- **Julian Reyes, Indicators**, PhD candidate at Washington State University
- **Farhan Sakib, Health**, undergraduate student at University of Toronto (on detail from NOAA)
- **Justin Shaifer, Indicators**, undergraduate student at Hampton University

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.