

U.S. Global Change Research Program

The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) coordinates and integrates federal research on changes in the global environment and their implications for society. Since its inception in 1990, the USGCRP has supported research and observation activities in collaboration with other national and international science programs. These activities have led to major advances in key areas of climate science, which are documented in numerous [assessments](#) commissioned by the program. The most recent national assessment, *Global Climate Change Impacts in the U.S.* (2009), provides a sectoral and regional perspective of anticipated climate change impacts. The USGCRP annual report to Congress, *Our Changing Planet*, further describes program accomplishments and plans.

Historical Focus

During the past two decades, the USGCRP has made significant investment and progress towards improving understanding of the Earth's past and present climate; quantifying the changes in the Earth's climate systems; improving projections of future changes; and understanding climate change impacts and vulnerabilities of natural and human systems.

A New Era for Global Change Research

The USGCRP continues to support a variety of research activities to gain more detailed, predictive understanding of climate change. However, to build on these traditional strengths and to better respond to already-identified impacts and the changing needs of society, the program is currently undergoing a strategic and organizational realignment. Increased emphasis is being placed on bridging research gaps that exist between climate science and our understanding of the effects climate change may have on society and our ability to respond to such effects.



Congressional Mandate

[Global Change Research Act of 1990](#) (P.L. 101-606) called for "*a comprehensive and integrated United States research program that will assist the Nation and the world to **understand, assess, predict, and respond** to human-induced and natural processes of global change.*"

Vision

A nation, globally engaged and guided by science, meeting the challenges of climate and global change

Mission

To build a knowledge base that informs human responses to climate and global change through coordinated and integrated federal programs of research, education, communication, and decision support



The USGCRP is moving toward a new framework that enables an integrative, interdisciplinary, and user-inspired climate change research program. This framework, comprising seven strategic functions, will allow USGCRP to continue to enhance our fundamental understanding and inform effective decision making to reduce vulnerabilities, improve resilience, and limit the magnitude of climate change impacts.

Strategic Functions

- Integrated Observations
- Process Research
- Adaptation Science
- Integrative Modeling
- Climate Assessment
- Climate Services
- Communications, Education, and Engagement

USGCRP Participating Agencies & Departments

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health & Human Services
- Department of Interior
- Department of State
- Department of Transportation
- National Aeronautics & Space Administration
- National Science Foundation
- Smithsonian Institution
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



For more information on the U.S. Global Change Research Program, please visit: <http://www.globalchange.gov>