

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Regional Climate Centers (RCCs) are a federal-state cooperative effort. The RCC Program is managed by the NOAA's National Climatic Data Center (NCDC). The six centers that comprise the RCC Program are engaged in the timely production and delivery of useful climate data, information and knowledge for decision makers and other users at the local, state, regional and national levels. The RCCs support NOAA's efforts to provide operational climate services while leveraging improvements in technology and collaborations with partners to expand quality data dissemination capabilities.

As presently configured, the RCCs support the Climate activities in the States as identified by the postal code below.

*Northeast:* ME NH VT MA RI CT NY NJ PA DE MD WV

*Southeast:* VA NC SC GA FL AL PR

*Midwest:* OH MI IN IL WI MN IA MO KY

*Southern:* TN MS LA AR TX OK

*High Plains:* KS NE SD ND WY CO

*Western:* WA OR CA NV AZ NM UT ID MT AK

Past work by the RCCs has shown that analysis of weather and climate events, and assessment of their impacts, can lead to regionally-tailored adaptation and mitigation strategies that can minimize negative impacts as well as identify positive impacts. NCDC, the National Weather Service (NWS) and the RCCs created a new internet-based system to provide directed access for user-specified queries to climate data archives—the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS). ACIS is a part of NOAA's National Virtual Data System (NVDS).

The RCC Program is managed by the NOAA's NCDC. RCCs are a federal-state cooperative effort. The RCC Program directly supports the following legislative mandates:

*National Climate Program Act of 1978 (15 U.S.C. 2901, 2908 (PL 95-367))* – mandate “...to improve the use and dissemination of climatic data and information for the economic benefit and well-being of the United States.”

*U.S. Global Change Research Act of 1990 (PL 101-606)* - calls for the Federal Government to “...combine and interpret data from various sources to produce information readily usable by policymakers attempting to formulate effective strategies for preventing, mitigating, and adapting to the effects of global change.”

The six centers that comprise the RCC Program are engaged in the timely production and delivery of useful climate data, information and knowledge to decision makers and other users at the local, state, regional and national levels. The RCCs support NOAA's efforts to provide operational climate services while leveraging improvements in technology and collaborations with partners to expand quality data dissemination capabilities. The RCCs respond annually to millions of requests for data and information from citizens, state and federal agencies, and weather-sensitive businesses (agriculture, transportation, risk management, etc.), especially through RCC online data systems. Information tailored to specific regional needs is generated at the RCCs and is shared with NCDC, NWS offices and other agencies to ensure an integrated approach to climate analyses, planning, and dissemination for the benefit of all climate information users. RCC data delivery to the larger climate community relies on a nimble combination of near-real time relational databases and web-based information resources.

The current configuration of RCCs includes six centers located at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York; the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, The University of Nebraska in Lincoln, the Illinois State Water Survey in Champaign, and the Desert Research Institute in Reno, Nevada.

ACIS (<http://rcc-acis.org/>) is the RCC backbone for disseminating NWS and NCDC climate information to partners and a host of regional and state climate data users. In recent years, requests for climate information from the RCCs have grown rapidly as products have been developed for many sectors, including risk management, energy production, agricultural planning, transportation services and the general public.