



Proposed Climate Service in NOAA

Consistent with the Department of Commerce's authority under the National Climate Program Act (15 U.S.C. §2901, *et seq.*), NOAA's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Request includes a reorganization that brings together NOAA's existing dispersed climate capabilities under a single line office to more effectively and efficiently respond to America's

increasing demand for climate information. The Climate Service will provide a reliable and authoritative source for climate data, information, and decision-support services and allow NOAA to more effectively coordinate with other agencies and partners. The reorganization is budget neutral, does not change staffing levels, require employee relocations, new facilities, or the physical relocation of any programs or labs. The headquarters will be located in Silver Spring, MD.

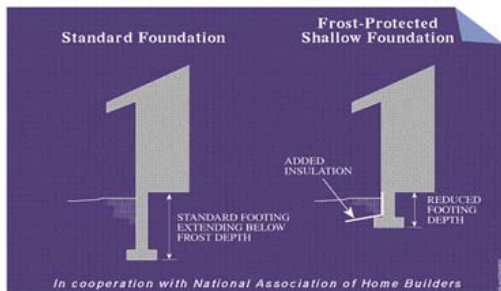
"The [Academy] Panel strongly supports the creation of a NOAA Climate Service to be established as a line office in NOAA."

- National Academy of Public Administration, September 2010

Climate Service Example: Construction

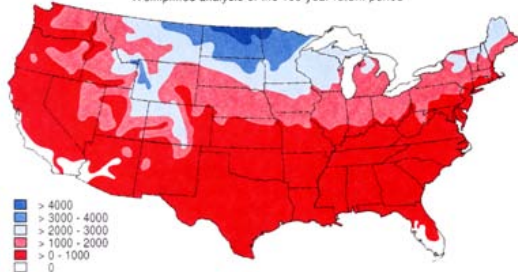
NOAA provides air-freezing data to the home building industry, which in-turn developed new insulation standards for protecting building foundations from frost. This resulted in annual building cost savings of \$330 million and energy cost savings of 586,000 megawatt-hours.

How NOAA Climate Data are used to reduce construction costs and energy consumption



AIR-FREEZING INDEX (°F Days)

A simplified analysis of the 100-year return period



Meeting The Challenge

NOAA spent several years carefully studying alternatives to determine how it can best meet the Nation's growing demand for climate services and has benefited from substantial input from the public, our employees and advisory bodies, the National Academies and Congress. Many of these ideas have been captured in a draft Vision and Strategic Framework, available at the website listed below. In addition, at the request of Congress, NOAA commissioned the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) to study organizational options for delivering climate services. On September 14, 2010, NAPA released its

Growing Demand for Climate Information

Up to one-third of the U.S. gross domestic product depends on accurate weather and climate information. Concerns from business, industry, government and the public about the potential impacts of climate variability and change are fueling an exponential growth in the demand for *climate services*—easily accessible and timely scientific data and information about climate that helps people make informed decisions in their lives, businesses, and communities.

Increasing and New Demands Require a Focused Organization

Through its existing laboratories, data centers and programs, NOAA responds to millions of annual requests for climate information. Despite this success, its current distributed network of climate assets is limiting NOAA's ability to fully anticipate, develop and deliver climate science and services to meet the rapidly-increasing demands of users and providers. NOAA must therefore make adjustments today that will support our long-term commitment to serving the climate service needs of the Nation.



final recommendations to NOAA and Congress, which contained more than two dozen recommendations on business processes and other aspects of implementing the Climate Service.

The Climate Service

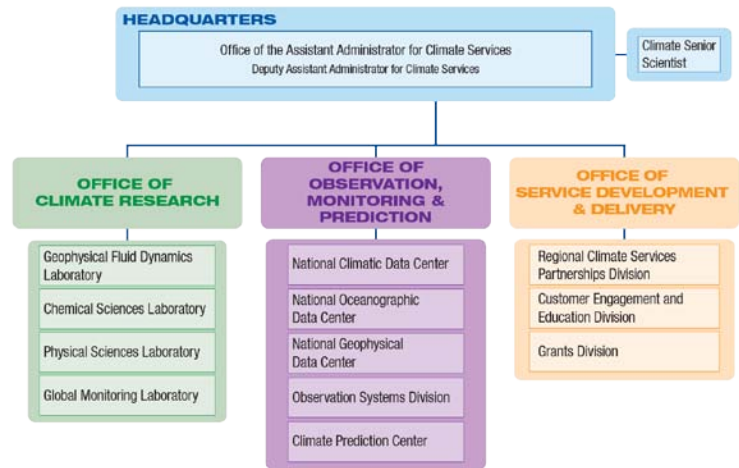
Based on the input received, NOAA is proposing a singular line office that integrates its longstanding climate capabilities -- world-class researchers, observations, monitoring, predictions, assessments, and training -- into a single, more coordinated and efficient organization. The Climate Service will also leverage the existing on-the-ground user engagement and service delivery of many programs across the agency, such as National Weather Service forecast offices, Sea Grant, Coastal Services Center, and external partner institutions such as Regional Integrated Science and Assessments, Regional Climate Centers and State Climatologists.

The Climate Service will strengthen and expand NOAA’s contributions to climate science and services, creating a unified and responsive organization with broader reach than can be achieved today under its existing climate structure. As a result, climate service users, providers, and partners will have a single, highly visible point of entry for reliable and authoritative climate data, information and decision-support services.

NOAA recognizes that no single agency can fulfill these growing needs. However, it envisions the Climate Service as a streamlined and coordinated line office positioned to contribute to and participate fully in partnerships across other federal agencies and other regional climate service providers.

Authoritative, timely and reliable information about climate variability and change opens a world of possibilities to build resilient communities, infrastructure, and economies. The Climate Service in NOAA will advance and transform climate science into useable and relevant services to better meet the needs of the nation.

PROPOSED CLIMATE SERVICE



Proposed Climate Service Organizational Structure

Benefits of a Climate Service in NOAA

Authoritative, timely and reliable information about climate variability and change opens a world of possibilities to build resilient communities, infrastructure, and economies.

Examples include:

1. Supports a new category of economic innovation: entrepreneurs and other businesses that specialize in the provision of services and products based on environmental and climate data.
2. Cities, tribes, and states will have an authoritative source of information on the likelihood of heat waves, storm surges, floods, and other climate extremes to help them address vulnerabilities and develop adaptation plans.
3. Coastal communities will become more resilient as Climate Service services enhance state and local policy and planning by integrating local sea-level trends with global sea-level projections and assessing the risk of coastal inundation from changes in storm intensity and frequency.
4. Natural resource management agencies will use Climate Service information to make more informed adaptation decisions in the fulfillment of requirements to protect ecosystems and species.
5. More durable, resilient, and cost-effective housing, water systems, dams, runways, roads, bridges and utilities will result from Climate Service collaborations with infrastructure planners.