

# A Call for a Nationwide System of Climate Services

Protecting public health, economic vitality, and national security as the climate continues to change requires systemic climate action to reduce emissions, adapt to change, and enhance resilience to extreme events. A key element of an effective U.S. climate response is a system of climate services that supports local governments and communities in taking urgent and effective action to build climate resilience.

As the impacts of climate change become more apparent and costly, communities need assistance in developing and implementing climate resilience plans. Local climate actions

must also increase equity, achieve greater environmental justice, and support ecological integrity.

A comprehensive approach to developing climate services that takes advantage of what the federal government and civil society each do best will pave the way for the scale of local decision-making needed for the U.S. to meet its climate mitigation and adaptation goals.

*This Statement of Principles is consistent with those of the Resilience Roadmap and Resilience 21 collaborations.*

## The Federal Government must take urgent action to develop a system of climate services that:

- ▶ **Addresses both mitigation and adaptation** in a comprehensive approach to climate resilience
- ▶ **Centers the needs of frontline communities**, and the imperative of building equity and environmental justice
- ▶ **Preserves and strengthens** the resilience of ecological systems
- ▶ **Ensures credible climate science** and modeling information is accessible to all communities
- ▶ **Directly funds and enables community-based planning** and implementation to build local adaptive capacity
- ▶ **Catalyzes the development of the climate resilience workforce** to create jobs and foster climate smart economies
- ▶ **Leverages and supports existing organizations and networks**, including academic, private sector, non-profit, and philanthropic organizations
- ▶ **Utilizes a whole of society approach** across federal, state, Tribal, and local jurisdictions
- ▶ **Employs institutional mechanisms** that ensure long-term sustainability of the system
- ▶ **Is responsive to the needs of the public** and communities across the U.S.

The organizations listed below support this statement and stand ready to advise and assist the federal government in developing this system of climate services. We recommend developing a Federal Advisory Committee made up of organizations that have been focused on developing climate services. All representatives listed below are willing to serve on such a committee in order to develop a detailed plan for operationalizing this urgently needed system.

**Tonya Graham**, Executive Director, Geos Institute

**Beth Gibbons**, Executive Director, American Society of Adaptation Professionals

**Lara Hansen**, Chief Scientist & Executive Director, EcoAdapt

**Richard Moss**, Convening Board, Science for Climate Action Network

**Kathy Jacobs**, Director, Center for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions



## Additional Signers

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