

# National Climate Indicators System

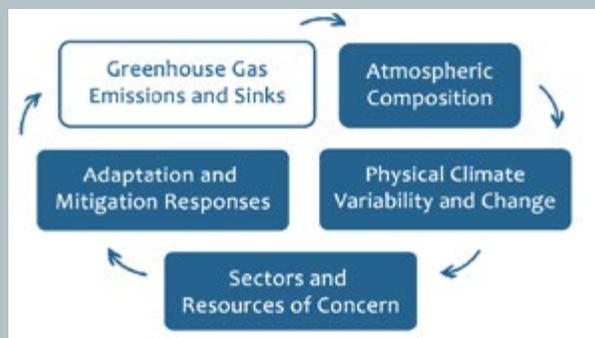
*Physical, ecological, and societal indicators to track climate changes, impacts, vulnerabilities, and preparedness*



United States  
Global Change  
Research Program

[www.globalchange.gov](http://www.globalchange.gov)

The Indicators Working Group, chartered by the National Climate Assessment Development and Advisory Committee, and working with the agencies of the U. S. Global Change Research Program, have developed a plan for a National Climate Indicators System to provide systematically collected information, data, and tools for responding to global change. The Indicators System will go beyond simply documenting climate changes, to encompass climate-related impacts, and adaptation and mitigation responses for natural systems and human sectors. It is designed to provide scientific data to decision makers that will help them both prepare for and respond to climate change. The Indicators System is designed around a conceptual framework to identify the indicators that are most important scientifically and for decision-making.



**Conceptual framework linking categories of indicators**

## The Indicators System will be:

- Informative for climate-smart decisions in management, research, and education.
- Intended for use by a wide variety of decision makers in the public and private sectors, and in the scientific community.
- Customizable by providing trustworthy data, methods, and sources that users can adapt for specific needs at regional and local levels.
- Built upon existing indicator efforts by integrating data from across Federal agencies, NGOs, academia, and the private sector into one system.
- Regularly updated and evaluated to identify opportunities for indicator research and development as a part of long-term sustained assessment activities.

## Highlights

- Indicators include data to assess impacts at multiple scales from across the U.S. as well as key global climate change indicators. The indicators focus on sectors and systems that are nationally important, including information on trends and current state.
- Over 150 scientists and managers from across 9 Federal agencies, the public and private sectors, and academia have been involved in the system's development.
- Indicators will be featured on the web-based Global Change Information System, a portal designed to make products and documentation easily accessible and traceable.
- A pilot Indicators System will be launched in 2014 as a static prototype to be tested and evaluated by both scientists and user communities, with lessons learned used to inform the system's development.
- The next phase of the Indicators System (launch expected for 2015) is intended to be a dynamic information service, ultimately having over 100 indicators.

## Indicator Systems and Sectors

**Adaptation and Hazards**  
**Agriculture | Biodiversity**  
**Climate Change and Variability | Energy**  
**Freshwater Ecosystems | Forests**  
**Grasslands, Rangelands and Pastures**  
**Human Health | Infrastructure**  
**Mitigation and Greenhouse Gas Emissions**  
**Oceans and Coasts**  
**Seasonal Timing and Phenology**

## Visit our web page to find out more

[www.globalchange.gov/what-we-do/assessment/indicators-system](http://www.globalchange.gov/what-we-do/assessment/indicators-system)

Contact us at [indicators@usgcrp.gov](mailto:indicators@usgcrp.gov)

