

State Climatologists Issue Policy on Climate Change

During the summer 2001 annual meeting of the American Association of State Climatologists (AASC), it was decided that a policy statement by this organization on climate was needed. This community, which provides climate service to individual states and regions, had here to fore not provided its view on the subject of climate prediction capabilities and climate services.

Among the major conclusions of the resulting policy statement is that our ability to skillfully predict the future climate, due to both

natural causes and human forcings, is limited to approximately a season or so. The policy also states that monitoring and assessments of societal and environmental vulnerability to climate variability and change are the topics which should be emphasized, in terms of the allocation of resources in this area.

The policy statement, which was accepted nearly unanimously by the voting members, can be found at <http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/aasc.html>.

The AASC is the professional organization for state climatologists in the United States. Each state climatologist is appointed in his or her respective state to provide expertise on issues associated with climate. The state climatologists collaborate with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's six Regional Climate Centers and the Department of Commerce's National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), located in Asheville, North Carolina.

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