

The Future of Climate Research

WCRP Joint Scientific Committee

WCRP: A New Horizon

Over the past four decades, the World Climate Research Programme has been central to the development of the international climate science that has been the cornerstone of international climate policy and emerging climate services.

Now, as we face the consequences of a changing climate, WCRP must respond. The same fundamental climate science that underpinned past achievements must now also support new societal needs related to, among others, wise mitigation and adaptation choices in a changing world. WCRP is at a critical juncture, where new pathways must be forged to enable climate science that will serve society through the 21st Century.



Understand Earth's Climate

Constrain Future Climate

Connect with Decision Makers

The Draft WCRP Strategic Plan: 2019-2029

The WCRP Strategic Plan is based on the critical need for fundamental climate science, that will prepare society for challenges that we may not yet foresee. The plan is organized around:

Overarching objectives

The *Objectives* focus the climate research community on the far horizon and consider the scientific research that will be required to answer the substantial challenges with which society is presented. The objectives are:

1. *Understanding the climate system*
2. *Advancing predictive skill on sub-decadal timescales*
3. *Constraining projections on decadal to centennial timescales*
4. *Connecting climate science with policy and services*

Research emphases

The *Emphases* highlight the bedrock science that must be supported and nurtured as new communities form and re-form around evolving scientific foci in support of the *Objectives*.

Imperatives

The *Imperatives* outline WCRP tools and capabilities.

Tools

- Hierarchy of models
- Observations and measurement
- Data synthesis
- Open access infrastructures

Capabilities

A vibrant world-wide climate community

Education - Engagement - Partnerships

The Strategic Plan, to be finalized by the end of 2018, will be complemented by an Implementation Plan, which will be a 10-year outline of how the Strategic Plan will be achieved. For further information please see: www.wcrp-climate.org/wcrp-sp-overview