



Climate Data Collaborative

Tracking Down Data

Where to Find Climate and Environmental Information in 2026

Sonia Wang, Sr Advisor

www.ClimateDataCollaborative.org



The Data Foundation is a nonprofit think tank based in Washington, D.C.

- Improve government, business, and society by using data to inform public policymaking
- Champion the use of evidence-informed policy making across government

How do we do it?

- Policy Research
- Community Collaboration
- Data and Evidence Advocacy

Climate Data Collaborative



Climate Data Collaborative

Connect stakeholders across sectors and industries to accelerate climate and environmental action.

- **Data must be actionable.** Timely, easily accessible, easy to understand, and supported by story telling.
- **Climate-related decisions depend on connected data.** Daily decisions at the project level must be connected to decisions made at a regional and national level.
- **Change requires collaboration.** Transparency and collaboration are the foundation of creating both durable data tools and lasting catalytic relationships.
- **Diverse coalitions are most likely to lead to durable change.** Cooperation between the businesses and non-profit organizations across sectors requires thoughtful facilitation.
- **Data informed decisions may change as the data evolves.** We need to support decision makers with the tools they need to make and explain course corrections.
- **Resources are only useful if they reach the right people.** Creative and persistent dissemination and education strategies will be at the core of our work.

Setting the Stage



Climate Data Collaborative

01. Who depends on this data

Americans use federal climate and environmental data every day, often without knowing it.

02. The system that produces it

Roles and responsibilities, fragmented across 15+ agencies, built and sustained over decades.

03. What makes it fragile

Structural vulnerabilities that predate and compound current pressures.

04. What has changed

What the workforce and dataset numbers actually show, and why losses compound.

05. The response and its limits

Civil society are filling gaps, but cannot substitute for federal scale and authority.

06. The balance that matters

Why public data and private data serve different roles, and what is at stake.

Who depends on this data

Federal climate and environmental data reaches your constituents every day



EMERGENCY MANAGERS

Evacuation orders, flood and wildfire risk maps, hurricane tracks



FARMERS & RANCHERS

Drought forecasts, soil moisture data, crop insurance assessments



CITY & STATE PLANNERS

Sea level projections, heat risk mapping, infrastructure investment decisions



INSURANCE & FINANCE

Catastrophe risk modeling, mortgage exposure, bond ratings



PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES

Wildfire smoke forecasts, extreme heat warnings, waterborne disease risk



UTILITIES & GRID OPERATORS

Demand forecasting, storm preparation, renewable energy siting

Data pipeline

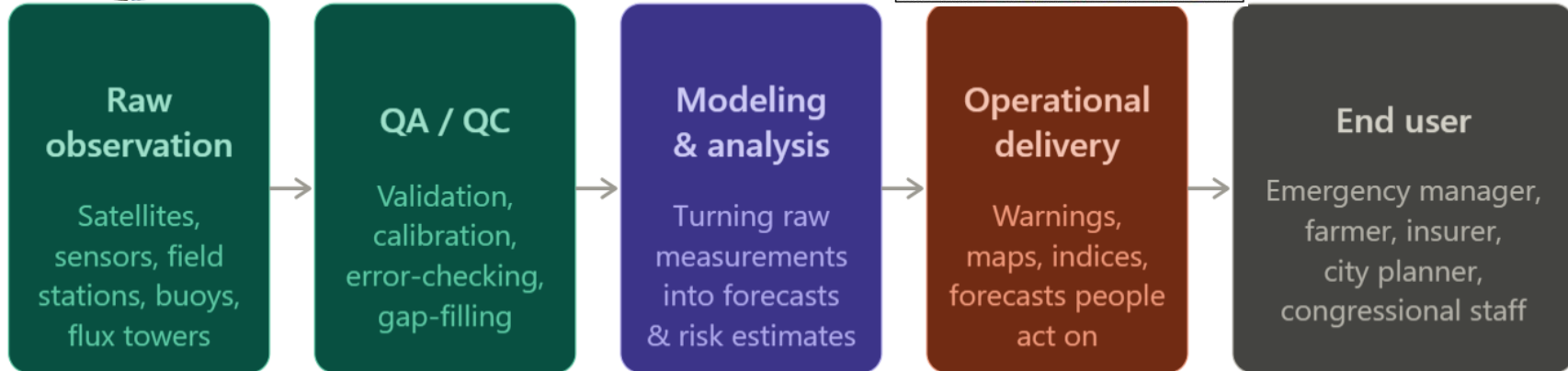
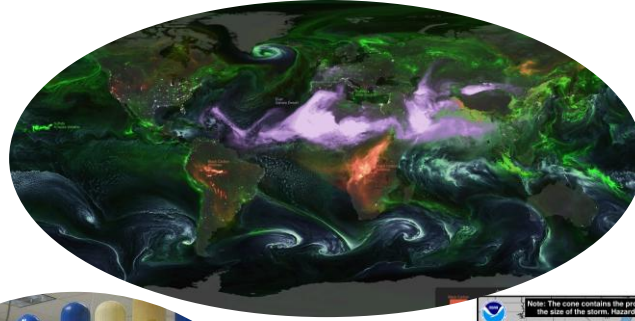
81° Columbus, OH
Change location >

85/60° high/low

40% chance of rain

NNE 4 mph winds

See full local forecast



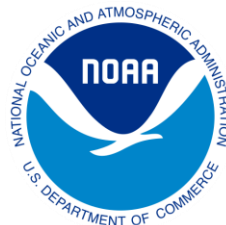
Climate and Environmental Data - Federal Landscape



Smithsonian



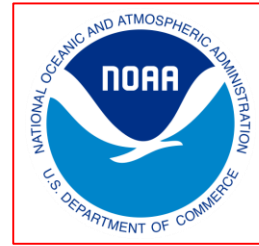
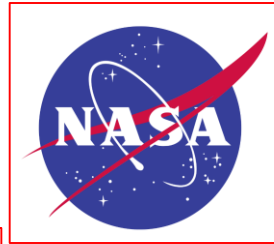
Forest Data



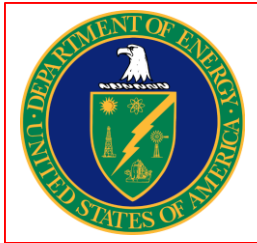
Smithsonian



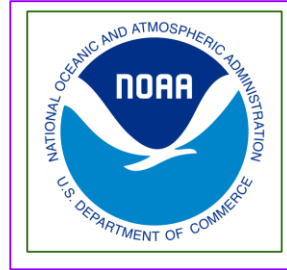
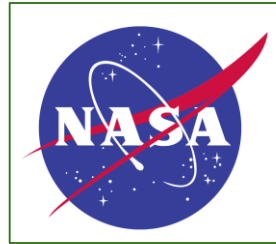
Forest Data Collection, Modeling, Information Delivery, Users



Smithsonian



Science & Research, Operations, Regulatory



Smithsonian



What makes this ecosystem fragile



Time Series Continuity - Network Fragility

Long-term records are essential for detecting trends and validating models. Discontinuing programs leads to infrastructure decommissioning, expensive to rebuild later. Sustained long term funding challenges.



Institutional Knowledge

Expertise lives in both people and documentation. Reorganization and agency restructuring disperses capacity. Losing the "why" behind decisions and data context compromises the system's integrity.



Infrastructure Interdependence

Built incrementally over decades. Single points of failure are hard to map. Undocumented dependencies surface when systems stop working.



The Public Goods Problem

Scale of federal science funding is critical. Grant cancellations and hiring freezes. Private products rely on foundational federal infrastructure. Degradation is gradual and often invisible.

What We've Lost

CAREERS | SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

U.S. government has lost more than 10,000 STEM Ph.D.s since Trump took office

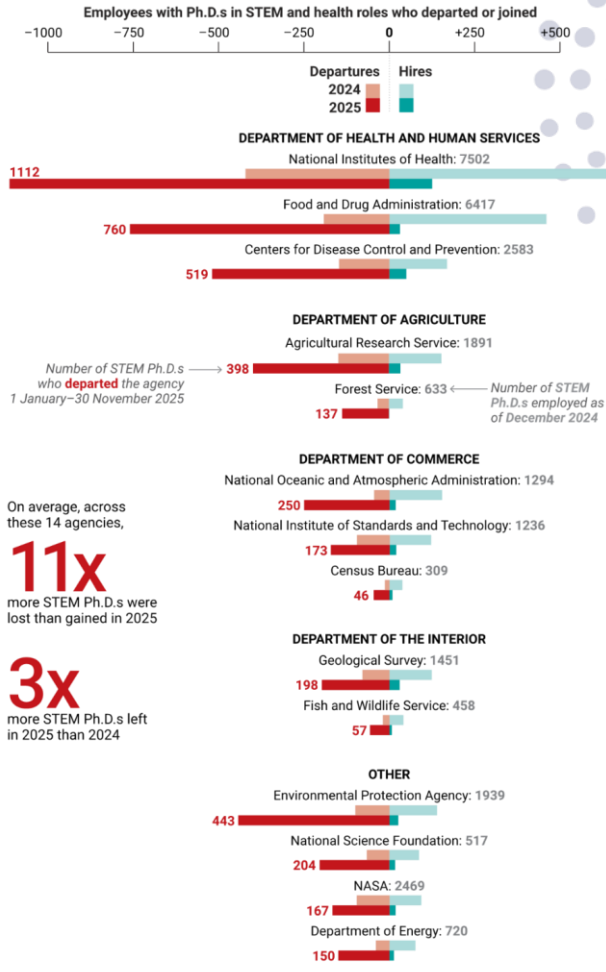
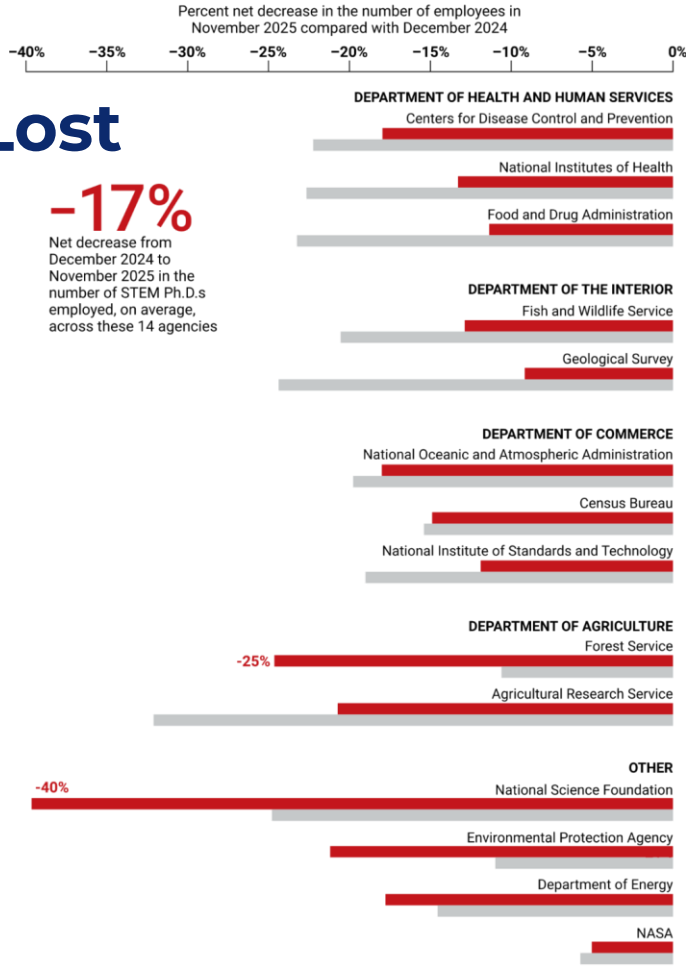
A *Science* analysis reveals how many were fired, retired, or quit across 14 agencies

26 JAN 2026 · 5:40 PM ET · BY [MONICA HERSHER](#), [JEFFREY MERVIS](#)

What We've Lost

-17%

Net decrease from December 2024 to November 2025 in the number of STEM Ph.D.s employed, on average, across these 14 agencies



On average, across these 14 agencies, **11x** more STEM Ph.D.s were lost than gained in 2025

3x more STEM Ph.D.s left in 2025 than 2024

*Data reflect departures and hires (including transfers) between 1 January and 30 November in 2024 and 2025.

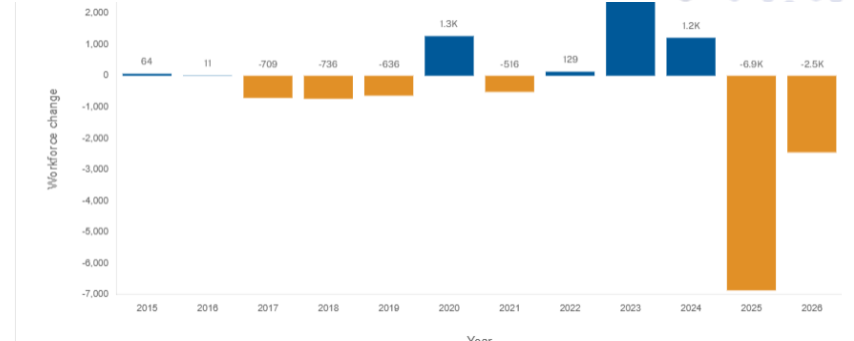
What We've Lost

Politics

Under Trump, the Department of Agriculture Has Ditched Conservation and Climate Efforts

An Inside Climate News analysis found the department lost 21 percent of its workforce in 2025. Those cuts have thrown it into disarray.

By Georgina Gustin, Peter Aldhous
April 8, 2026



Forest Service

-19,630

Decrease in Department of Agriculture employees since FY 2015

Source: [OPM EHRI Dynamics](#)

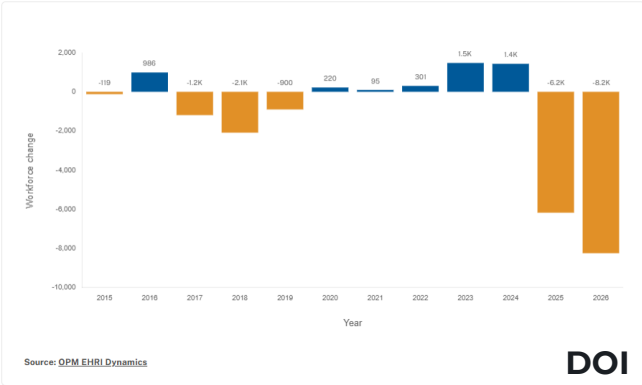
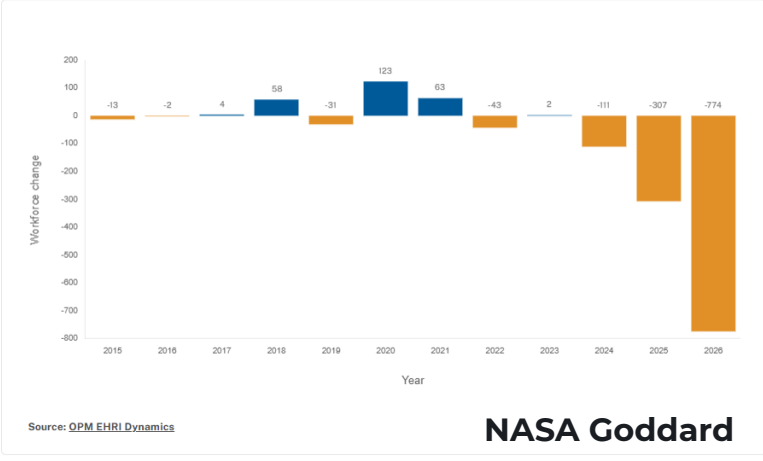
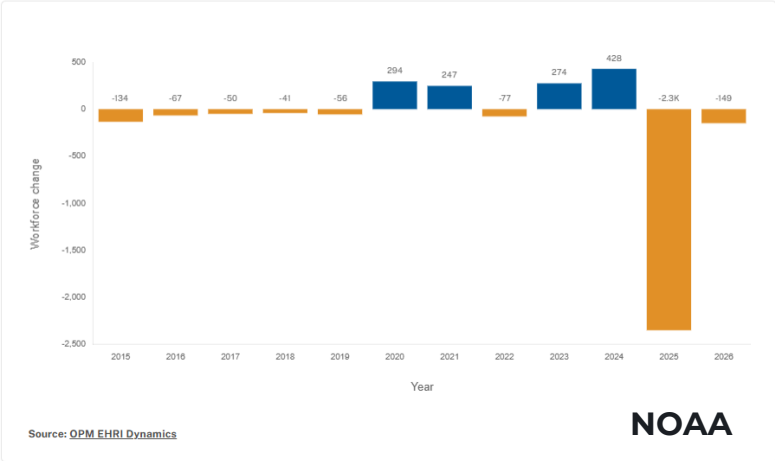
NRCS - FTE PBR Projected Numbers

FY 25: **4,429**

FY 26: **3,864**

FY 27 (Proposed): **570**

What We've Lost



Rapid response to thinking about a more resilient future ecosystem

Public Environmental Data Partners

The Public Environmental Data Partners are committed to preserving and providing public access to federal environmental data. We are a volunteer coalition of several environmental, justice, and policy organizations, researchers across several universities, archivists, and students who rely on federal datasets and tools to support critical research, advocacy, policy, and litigation work. To gather insights on what data to preserve, we reached out to our networks, which consist largely of environmental justice groups and networks, state and local government climate offices, and academic researchers. We compiled a large list of federal databases and tools, and prioritized them based on their relative impact, our confidence that we could archive them, and the relative effort it would take to obtain and archive them.

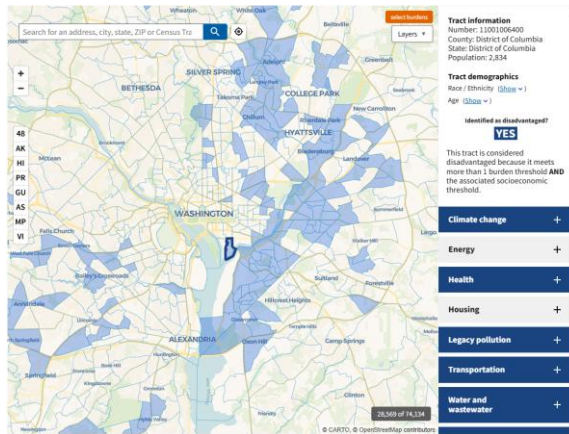
Fill out the form [here](#) to nominate data for us to preserve.

<https://screening-tools.com/>

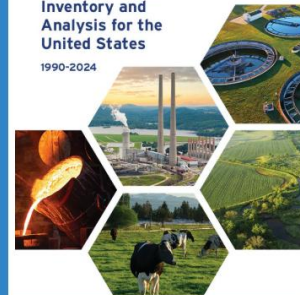
U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters

Climate Central maintains this comprehensive database tracking U.S. weather and climate disasters since 1980 where overall damages/costs reached or exceeded \$1 billion (including Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment to 2026). As of March 2026, the U.S. has sustained 431 such events, with a total cost exceeding \$3.1 trillion.

<https://www.climatecentral.org/climate-services/billion-dollar-disasters>



Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Analysis for the United States 1990-2024



[View Full Report](#)

<https://ghgi.cgs.umd.edu/>

Rapid response to thinking about a more resilient future ecosystem

AGU AND AMS JOIN FORCES ON SPECIAL COLLECTION TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM OF RESEARCH SUPPORTING THE U.S. NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT

SCIENCE SOCIETIES TAKE ACTION AFTER NCA AUTHORS' DISMISSAL THIS WEEK

2 May 2025

Joint Release

AGU contact:

Josh Weinberg, news@agu.org

AMS contact:

Katie Pflaumer, kpflaumer@ametsoc.org



<https://news.agu.org/press-release/agu-and-ams-join-forces-on-special-collection-to-maintain-momentum-of-research-supporting-the-u-s-national-climate-assessment/>

Climate.us

independent, nonprofit, and immune to politics

[News & Features](#) | [NCA5](#) | [Mission & Goals](#) | [About Us](#) | [Get Involved](#) | [Contact](#)

They're hiding the truth. We're fighting back.

Donate

Brought to you by the team that built Climate.gov



For more than a decade, NOAA Climate.gov has been the U.S. government's premier platform for climate information for the public. In the first half of 2025, NOAA terminated Climate.gov's full-time federal and contractor staff, shutting down the site's daily operations.

Now, former members of the Climate.gov team have joined together with nonprofit partners to launch **Climate.us** a successor to Climate.gov outside the federal domain, where we can safeguard climate information from political interference.

About

The Nature Record is a national initiative bringing together knowledge, storytelling, and public participation to elevate the role of nature in the U.S.

We're dedicated to understanding how nature shapes our lives and how we shape what comes next.

<https://naturerecord.org/>

Rapid response to thinking about a more resilient future ecosystem

December 01, 2025

DEC Finalizes Program to Track Climate Pollution Sources

Climate Milestone Reached with Implementation of New Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program

<https://dec.ny.gov/news/press-releases/2025/12/dec-finalizes-program-to-track-climate-pollution-sources>

Comments of the States of California, Washington, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawai'i, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Vermont, the District of Columbia, and the Chief Legal Officers of the City of Chicago and the City of New York

on the

Proposed Reconsideration of the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program, 90 Fed. Reg. 44,591 (Sept. 16, 2025)

EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0186

November 3, 2025

Department of Ecology News Release - September 5, 2025

Ecology debunks federal climate report, reaffirms commitment to real science

<https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/news/2025/sept-4-ecology-debunks-federal-climate-report-reaffirms-commitment-to-real-science>

Rapid response to thinking about a more resilient future ecosystem



<https://www.nationalacademies.org/projects/DELS-DELS%20EO-25-02/past-events>

Greenhouse Gas Coalition

Sustain, Advance, and Scale GHG Information for Impact

The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Coalition brings together technical expertise from academia, private sector, NGOs, and former government officials to strengthen and coordinate the U.S. greenhouse gas measurement, monitoring, reporting, and verification (MMRV) ecosystem.

As a non-partisan technical group convened by the Data Foundation's Climate Data Collaborative, we work to advance a more robust MMRV ecosystem. The Coalition employs a phased approach: Phase I focuses on coordination functions—connecting technical communities, identifying critical gaps, and facilitating information sharing across the ecosystem. Phase II will develop dedicated workstreams to advance science-based solutions, support innovative capabilities, and scale promising approaches.

The Coalition serves as the technical backbone for the MMRV community, ensuring diverse yet equally critical efforts work together effectively to drive climate action.

ghgcoalition.org

Contact

sonia.wang@datafoundation.org

