



The Georgia Climate Project

Science. Stories. Solutions.

The Georgia Climate Project (GCP) is a proposed 3-year effort by a state-wide consortium of universities and colleges, working with partners, to improve understanding of climate impacts and solutions in Georgia.

Deliverables

Georgia has the potential to be a much-needed regional leader on climate change – we have strong intellectual leadership across the state, a talented workforce, ample clean energy resources, and multiple vulnerable populations eager to build resilience to climate impacts – but we have not yet risen to this challenge. The GCP can make a critical contribution toward this end by delivering the following results:

- A strong and durable multidisciplinary community of practice in the state that can support science-based climate action now and in the future;
- A deeper understanding among scientists and policymakers of how climate change will impact Georgia;
- Impactful non-partisan communication that breaks down traditional barriers to discourse on these issues; and
- Meaningful progress in developing and implementing climate solutions in Georgia that maximize economic opportunity and minimize economic hardship.

Initial Activities

1. **The Georgia Climate Science Roadmap:** Through a consultative, multi-stakeholder process, we will identify and rank the top 40 research questions for which answers will benefit climate policymakers, practitioners, and policymakers in the state. This effort will be led by a principal investigator with extensive experience in research prioritization exercises.
2. **Georgia Climate Stories:** Working with a partner at CNN, we will engage students, journalism schools, other faculty, and stakeholder groups to better understand and tell the stories of what climate change means to everyday Georgians. Similar to the UNC “Climate Stories NC” project, the core product will be a series of short web videos that will be disseminated on social media. We will also work with traditional media to pick up these stories in multiple forms. We believe this focus on concrete and local impacts can help get past the polarizing nature of climate in the state.
3. **Georgia Climate Vulnerability Assessment Exercise:** We will conduct a year-long exercise to crowdsource an assessment of climate impacts and vulnerabilities in Georgia. We will start with a one-stop website with climate projection data (temperature, precipitation, etc.) and resources on methodologies for analyzing this data. At the end of the year, researchers from across the state will be invited to present their findings on what climate change means for multiple sectors (e.g., agriculture, water, transportation, health) and geographies (e.g., coastal Georgia, urban areas).
4. **Choosing Our Energy Future:** Emory and Georgia Tech have a proven track record of convening multi-stakeholder conversations about advancing clean energy in Georgia. At our second “Choosing

Founding Partners:



Climate@Emory



our Energy Future” town hall event in October 2016, 80 participants from academia, civil society, the private sector, and utilities identified a range of “no regrets” options for moving forward on clean energy in the state, including state energy planning, identifying transition strategies for coal power plant communities, accelerating clean energy deployment in low-income communities, maximizing innovation, and growing clean energy jobs. Having initiated this conversation, we will now work with partners to make concrete progress on selected strategies in the months ahead, and will convene a follow-on town hall in 2017 to discuss progress and next steps.

Building a Multidisciplinary Community of Practice

Georgia’s academic community is uniquely positioned to improve understanding of climate impacts and solutions and to help bridge the political and social silos that are inhibiting climate action in the state. Together, we have the ability to serve as a neutral and respected platform for convening a diverse coalition of stakeholders while bringing to the table talented faculty and creative, passionate students. We will invite schools across Georgia to join the GCP, with a strong focus on racial and geographic diversity. We will also work actively with non-academic partners. In the non-profit sector, we have engaged the Southface Energy Institute, the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, Georgia Conservancy, Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, and Citizens Climate Lobby, among others. In the public sector, we have engaged several departments of the Georgia government as well as the Atlanta Regional Commission and the City of Atlanta. Finally, we have engaged key private sector stakeholders, ranging from local clean energy developers to utilities to Georgia-based CNN and The Weather Channel.

Our Team

The three founding partners have a strong record of expertise on climate change science and policy. Emory is a leader on public health, and its Climate@Emory initiative combines over 60 faculty and staff to advance climate-related scholarship, teaching, and community engagement. Georgia Tech is widely recognized for leadership on clean energy and climate modeling, and houses deep expertise across multiple units, including its Climate Energy Policy Laboratory, Urban Climate Lab, and School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. The University of Georgia has done pioneering climate work with agricultural and coastal communities, and its Climate & Society Initiative involves more than 60 faculty and staff dedicated to improving climate understanding, developing effective solutions, and communicating with stakeholders. Members of our team have held prominent national leadership positions, including the presidency of the American Meteorological Society and membership on the Tennessee Valley Authority’s Board of Directors. In the past year alone, we have published multiple high-impact journal articles, served on National Academies study panels, briefed Congressional and White House staff, sent delegations to UN climate conferences in Paris and Marrakech, released influential reports on the Clean Power Plan, and convened multi-stakeholder conversations on Georgia’s clean energy future.

More Information

For more information, and to sign up for our mailing list, please visit www.GeorgiaClimateProject.org,