



NOAA's National Weather Service

2019-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN

in brief

VISION

A Weather-Ready Nation: Society is prepared for and responds to weather, water, and climate-dependent events.

MISSION

Provide weather, water, and climate data, forecasts, and warnings for the protection of life and property and enhancement of the national economy.

GOAL 1

Reduce the impacts of weather, water, and climate events by transforming the way people receive, understand, and act on information.

GOAL 2

Harness cutting-edge science, technology, and engineering to provide the best observations, forecasts, and warnings.

GOAL 3

Evolve the NWS to excel in the face of change through investment in our people, partnerships, and organizational performance.

Core Principles

- **Our people drive our success;** we are dedicated to our science-based service to the Nation.
- **We provide the best forecasts possible,** connecting them to decisions that reduce impacts.
- **We cannot do it alone;** teamwork and partnerships are essential for success.
- **We strive for excellence,** continuously improving our science and engineering for mission performance.

WHAT'S CHANGING in this new Strategic Plan?

Operations and Impact-Based Decision Support Service (IDSS):

- We will improve our Impact-Based Decision Support Services by developing standard levels of service, **providing every state and county critical preparedness and forecast and warning information.**
- We will **develop new IDSS tools** that improve collaboration with partners and deployed personnel, and catalog partners' impacts and decision points.
- We will shift to **a more collaborative, agile, and interconnected operational model** that combines our centers of expertise with our local knowledge of partners and geography.
- We will **simplify our products, services, and communications** so our partners and the public can better understand and apply them.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Infrastructure:

- We will develop the **best unified earth-system modeling system in the world**, working hand-in-hand with the weather, water, and climate community.
- **Ensemble modeling will improve the accuracy and lead-time of our forecasts**, and will enable better quantification of forecast confidence.
- A **blend of models will provide a consistent starting point** for NWS forecast operations.
- **Integrating the power of human skill with the efficiency of new computing technology** will revolutionize hazard forecasting, enabled by machine learning and advanced probabilistic tools.
- We will **make our data and forecasts easier to find and use**, allowing broader development and application of new tools, techniques, and information across the Enterprise.
- We will **engineer our infrastructure** to better meet expectations for security, reliability, and availability.

People, Partnerships, and Organizational Performance:

- We will **make NWS an even better place to work** by improving the health and culture of our organization and the satisfaction of our people.
- We will **increase our focus on understanding the perspective of our customers**, from emergency managers to the public, to ensure a user experience responsive to their needs.
- We will intentionally **refine our recruitment, hiring, and training efforts to create a more diverse workforce** that delivers high performance in achieving our mission and strategic direction.
- We will **leverage new and expanding partnerships** with America's Weather, Water and Climate Industry, academia, other federal agencies, and NOAA offices to collectively achieve the vision of a Weather-Ready Nation.