

American Meteorological Society Endorses Academies on Climate Change

The American Meteorological Society (AMS), the nation's leading professional society for those involved in the atmospheric and related sciences, has endorsed a recent statement on climate change by the 11 national science academies.

The “Joint Academies’ Statement: Global Response to Climate Change,” released on 7 June by the U.S National Academy of Science and 10 other national science academies, calls on world leaders to acknowledge the threat of climate change, address its causes, and prepare for its consequences

The academies’ statement notes that sufficient scientific understanding of climate change exists for all nations to identify cost-effective steps that can be taken now to contribute to substantial and long-term reductions in net global greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. The statement echoes the findings and recommendations of several previous reports by the U.S. National Academies. The complete statement is available at <http://nationalacademies.org/onpi/06072005.pdf>

The statement by the academies is consistent with the AMS in 2003 statement entitled “Climate Change Research: Issues for the Atmospheric and Related Sciences.” The AMS statement concludes that there is now clear evidence that the mean annual temperature at the Earth's surface, averaged over the entire globe, has been increasing in the past 200 years. The Society also acknowledges that there is clear evidence that the abundance of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has increased over the same period. The AMS calls for specific and focused research to address any gaps in the science to make sound policy decisions.

The AMS statement is online at http://www.ametsoc.org/POLICY/climatechangeresearch_2003.html

All AMS statements are online at <http://www.ametsoc.org/POLICY/Index.html>

