



For Immediate Release

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CLIMATE KNOWLEDGE IS CRITICAL TO SUPPORTING THE WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE

WASHINGTON — March 28, 2023 — Responding to the challenges of global environmental change will be aided by the development of a skilled “climate workforce” according to a new study by the American Meteorological Society (AMS) Policy Program.

Climate knowledge is increasingly embedded throughout a large portion of the workforce, the study found. The AMS report proposes a set of categories that relate climate knowledge to a wide range of workforce roles, whether that be in advancing understanding, translating knowledge for those who need it, or applying knowledge for new and effective uses.

The study also found that while there is no singular set of educational requirements for those in the climate workforce a familiarity with interdisciplinary methodologies and techniques for community engagement, as well as data management skills, will likely be highly beneficial for professional success.

The study is based on two AMS Policy Program workshops held in 2022. Experts from academia, government, and the private sector convened to examine challenges and opportunities related to the use of climate knowledge within the workforce. The purpose of the study was to help provide foundational understanding of future workforce needs in Earth system observations, science, and services.

“Meeting the challenges of rapid global environmental change will take a transformation of the workforce,” said Paul Higgins, director of the AMS Policy Program. “The changes in climate that people are causing are larger and faster than any humanity is known to have endured since we went from hunting and gathering to agriculture.”

The report concludes that the weather, water, and climate community will be essential in navigating the various physical and societal transformations that global environmental change will bring. As the need for Earth system observations, science, and services expands, it is important to continue to identify and address emerging workforce needs in order for society to be well-equipped to meet the challenges of the coming decades.

“Societal wellbeing is intrinsically linked to a capable and well-supported workforce,” said Emma Tipton, Policy Program Fellow and author of the report. “Investing in the training and development of the climate workforce will enable all people to thrive in a rapidly changing world.”

The full report is available at the American Meteorological Society Policy Program website at www.ametsoc.org/studies.

About the AMS Policy Program

The American Meteorological Society’s Policy Program promotes understanding and use of science and services relating to weather, water, and climate. Our goal is to help the nation, and the world, avoid risks and realize opportunities associated with the earth system. We focus on three primary approaches to accomplish this goal: 1) we develop capacity within the scientific community for effective and constructive engagement with the broader society, 2) we inform the broader society directly about established scientific understanding and the latest high-impact research results, and 3) We expand the knowledge base needed to use scientific understanding for societal advancement, particularly through our studies, research, and analysis. To learn more, visit www.ametsoc.org/amspolicy.

About the American Meteorological Society

The AMS promotes the advancement of the atmospheric and related sciences, technologies, applications, and services. Founded in 1919, AMS has a membership of more than 12,000 professionals, students, and weather enthusiasts. AMS publishes 12 atmospheric and related oceanic and hydrologic journals—in print and online, sponsors more than 12 conferences annually, and offers numerous programs and services.