



# Florida Climate Institute

*A joint venture between the University of Florida and the Florida State University*

**UF** | UNIVERSITY of  
**FLORIDA**



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# Climate Variability and Change

**Climate variability and change** pose significant **economic, food security, health, and environmental risks** worldwide.



Drought, wildfires, storms with heavy rain, high winds, flooding, and freeze events **cause billions of dollars in losses** to the agricultural and natural resources sectors locally in Florida and globally.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicts that by the year 2100 **global average temperature is likely to increase** by 2 to 11.5° F, **global mean sea level will rise** from 7 to 23 in, and there will be **increased risks of both flooding and drought**.





# Climate Information Challenges

Much of the climate change information communicated to the public is based on IPCC projections that are at the global level and relatively long-term (50 to 100 years).

**There is tremendous uncertainty regarding the regional and local impacts of global change.**

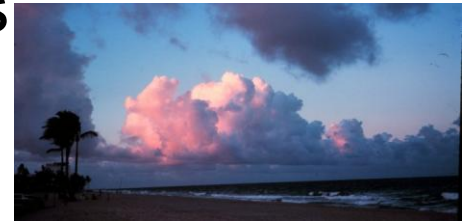
**Climate stakeholders, including policy makers, farmers, and the public, need information at local to regional levels and at shorter time scales.**





## Mission of the Florida Climate Institute

- Improve understanding of the processes and effects of ***climate variability, climate change, and sea level rise*** on the economy and on natural and human-built systems
- Develop technologies and information for reducing economic and environmental/health risks in managed and natural systems and supporting environmental policies
- Engage society in research, extension and education programs for enhancing adaptive capacity and responses to associated climatic risks







## Why an Institute?

- Lack of understanding of how society should respond to climate change information at local to regional scales and at multiple time scales over which decisions, policies are made
- Many questions without answers in Florida on climate change, sea level rise, and associated decisions and policies
- Large number of faculty at FSU and UF conducting relevant research
- Success of the Southeast Climate Consortium (SECC) during the last 10 years





# Our Goals

- **Disseminate science-based information** on regional climate variability and change to a diverse audience.
- Use climate change information to **build resiliency and adaptive capacity**.
- **Enhance understanding** of the interrelationships among climate, natural resources, ecosystems, health, and society.
- **Promote and support effective partnerships** between university faculty and stakeholders.





# Project Examples

- Using seasonal climate forecasts to reduce risk in regional **public water supply** management.
- Negotiating water management in the **Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) river basin**.
- Reducing the risk of climate change effects and human disturbances on **snowy and piping plovers**.
- Studying the impact of climate on **ciguatera fish poisoning**.
- Advancing student knowledge of global climate change through **teacher education**.
- Investigating **offshore wind power** potential in the Northern Gulf.





## Governance

- Director – J. W. Jones (UF)
- Co-Director – Eric Chassignet (FSU)
- Steering Committee –10 people (5 at UF and 5 at FSU)
  - Dr. Vasu Misra – Co-Chair (EOAS/COAPS)
  - Dr. O'Brien (COAPS)
  - Dr. Chanton (EOAS)
  - Dr. Harrington (CEFA)
  - Dr. Craig (Law)
- \$250K as seed money for 2 years from the Office of Research and the College of Arts and Sciences





Please join us for the

# Florida Climate Institute K I C K O F F

Keynote Speakers • Special Guests • Poster Session • Reception

## **Date**

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

## **Time**

2:00pm – 7:00pm

## **Location**

FSU Alumni Center  
1030 W. Tennessee Street  
Tallahassee, FL

## **Registration Information**

Please register by October 1 at  
[www.coaps.fsu.edu/fcickickoff](http://www.coaps.fsu.edu/fcickickoff)

## **Contact**

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