

**Approximately \$4 trillion of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product is reliant on accurate weather data!**

### TRANSPORTATION



- ✓ Snow removal preparation
- ✓ Route planning for commercial goods to avoid weather delays
- ✓ Planning for barge traffic across nation's waterways
- ✓ Planning highways to handle heavy precipitation events

### AGRICULTURE/AGRIBUSINESS



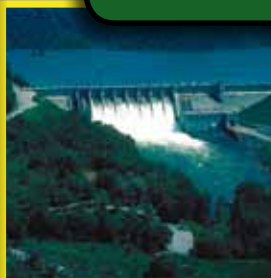
- ✓ COOP data is used to develop growing season zones
- ✓ Plant research and adaptability
- ✓ Frost/freezing climatology
- ✓ COOP data is used to study effects of climate on crop yields

### ENERGY



- ✓ Future demands for COOP data will increase with more energy needed
- ✓ Heating/Cooling Degree Days derived from COOP data determine your monthly power bill
- ✓ Billions of dollars in planning for forecast energy consumption and necessary resources to provide power to an area

### HYDROLOGY



- ✓ COOP data is used by Water Resource Management
- ✓ Flood maps and forecast models use rainfall data
- ✓ Planning for development, growth and flood control

## COOPERATIVE OBSERVER PROGRAM (COOP)

WEATHER & CLIMATE DATA FOR DECISION SUPPORT



### OTHER USES OF COOP DATA



- ✓ COOP data is used in NWS forecast and warning process
- ✓ Health/Disease Mitigation
- ✓ Recreation/Tourism
- ✓ COOP data is used to help solve legal disputes

### DROUGHT



- ✓ National Integrated Drought Information System uses COOP data through Western Governor's Association
- ✓ Drought losses average \$6-8 billion/year. COOP data is used for National and North American Drought monitoring/mitigation

### CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN



- ✓ New air freezing index estimated to save \$300 million/year by home builders association
- ✓ Planning for roof loading of snow/heavy rainfall

### DISASTER MITIGATION



- ✓ Federal Disaster Declaration funding in billions of dollars are determined with COOP data
- ✓ History of weather extremes used in planning to save millions of dollars
- ✓ Insurance industry payouts in billions of dollars are determined with COOP information

# COOPERATIVE OBSERVER PROGRAM

## The Mission

Monitor and maintain the nation's local climate and weather data record to support weather and climate forecasts, watches, warnings, and the continuity and preservation of the climate record and signal.

## Vision Statement

Provide official unbiased, high quality weather and climate observations and data stewardship for all data users. Collect and provide daily observations for input into decision support at all levels of government and private citizens.

## Program Management

The National Weather Service manages all aspects of program operations, training, data acquisition, and station maintenance.

## History

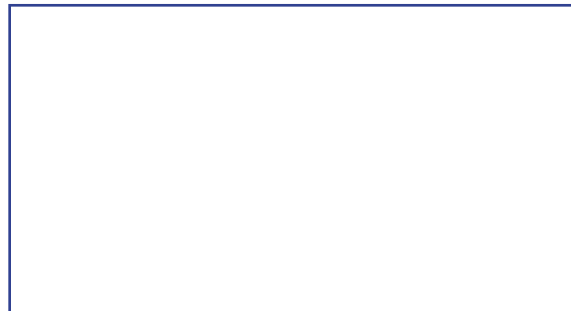
The program can be tracked back to 1797 when Thomas Jefferson envisioned a network of weather observers across the nation.

*The COOP Program partners across numerous Federal, State and Local agencies.*

### Resources

[www.nws.noaa.gov/om/coop](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/coop)

[www.nws.noaa.gov/om/coop/recent-obs.htm](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/coop/recent-obs.htm)



National Weather Service

# Cooperative Observer Program

“Quality Observations Lighting the Way for Decision Makers of Tomorrow”

