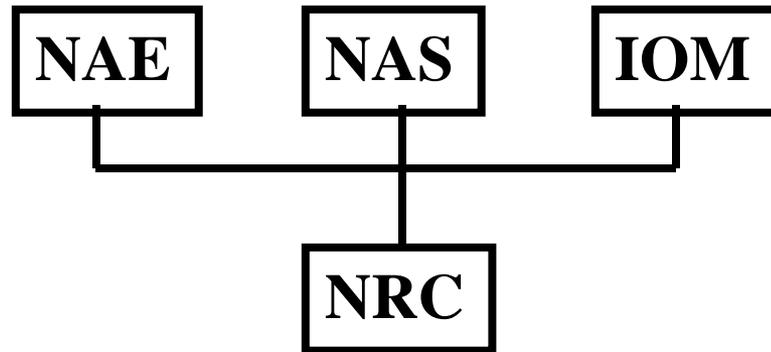


The National Academies

- A private, non-profit organization charged to provide advice to the nation on science, engineering, and medicine.
- National Academy of Sciences (NAS) chartered in 1863; National Academy of Engineering (NAE) and Institute of Medicine (IOM) added in 1964 and 1970, respectively. The National Research Council (NRC) is the operating arm of the NAS, NAE, and IOM.



THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine

The National Academies

- Mission: To advance science and technology
 - To advise government on policies for advancing science, engineering, and medicine
 - To advise government on applications of science, engineering, and medicine to policy issues
- National Academies' study committees produce more than 250 peer reviewed consensus reports each year, 85% of which are requested by the US government.
- Study committees are composed of 10-20 experts on relevant science and policy issues, carefully chosen for balance and objectivity.

The National Academies' Climate Change Study and Summit

The Department of Commerce Appropriations Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-161) calls for NOAA to execute an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to establish a Climate Change Study Committee that will:

“...investigate and study the serious and sweeping issues relating to global climate change and make recommendations regarding what steps must be taken and what strategies must be adopted in response to global climate change, including the science and technology challenges thereof. “



Guiding Questions

1. What can be done to limit the magnitude of future climate change?
 2. What can be done to adapt to the impacts of climate change?
 3. What can be done to better understand climate change and its interactions with human and ecological systems?
 4. What can be done to inform effective decisions and actions related to climate change?
- Four focused panels will be convened to study and write in-depth reports on these four questions



Guiding Questions

- 5. What short-term actions can be taken to respond effectively to climate change?**
- 6. What promising long-term strategies, investments, and opportunities could be pursued to respond to climate change?**
- 7. What are the major scientific and technological advances (e.g., new tools, research priorities, etc.) needed to better understand and respond effectively to climate change?**
- 8. What are the major impediments (e.g., practical, institutional, economic, ethical, intergenerational, etc.) to responding to climate change, and what can be done to overcome these impediments?**



Study Activities

A Climate Change Study Committee will be appointed to:

- **Provide overall direction, coordination, and integration**
- **Plan a Summit on Global Climate Change**
- **Write a final report that synthesizes the panel reports and provides integrated answers to guiding questions 5-8**

A Summit on Global Climate Change will:

- **Be held fairly early in the process (March 2009?)**
- **Provide an opportunity for high-level input and participation**
- **Serve as a key information-gathering event**



Key Aspects of Study Strategy

- ✓ Q&A approach
- ✓ Future and action-oriented
- ✓ US focus, recognizing international context
- ✓ Emphasizes short-term / long-term timeframes
- ✓ Utilizes and builds on existing resources
- ✓ Each group challenged to identify and target the most important sectors, spatial scales, and decision makers
- ✓ Policy relevant but not policy prescriptive
- ✓ Suite of communication activities, including the Summit, a final Symposium, additional opportunities for input and feedback, study website, derivative products, outreach activities, etc.
- ✓ Special workshops held as needed to gather information or focus discussion on specific topics (e.g., geo-engineering)
- ✓ Goal: to inform decision makers at all levels and across the many sectors facing critical decisions related to climate change



In Summary...

The Climate Change Study and Summit activities will produce a broad, action-oriented, and authoritative set of analyses to inform and guide responses to climate change across the nation.

For more information:

<http://www.national-academies.org/climate-change/>

or

<http://dels.nas.edu/basc/climate-change/>

