



2019 National Plan for Civil Earth Observations

New observational technologies and analytics from a broad array of entities calls for a new way of doing business. In response, the National Plan for Civil Earth Observations defines the Earth Observations Enterprise and focuses on collaboration and robust dialog to reshape America’s strategies for the collection and use of Earth observations. The Plan outlines the Administration’s priorities and focuses the Nation’s civil Earth observations efforts.

The U.S. Group on Earth Observations (USGEO) Subcommittee will use this plan to coordinate implementation of the recommended actions.

Strong coordination among the multi-sector enterprise will:

- Advance observational capabilities;
- Improve America’s ability to bolster infrastructure resilience;
- Improve Earth system prediction capabilities by leveraging the power of Earth observation data and fostering strong research environments;
- Foster a thriving Earth observation economy; and
- Retain American science and technology leadership.

Goals of the Plan

Goal 1: Support and Balance the Portfolio of Earth Observations—leveraging all observations from all parts of the Earth Observation Enterprise

Goal 2: Engage the Earth Observations Enterprise—fostering easily manageable, long-term relationships across all members of the Enterprise

Goal 3: Improve the Impact of Earth Observations—increasing the impact of Earth observations through innovative and multi-use applications; using systematic methods of understanding value; collaborating in international fora; and developing a skilled and capable workforce.

“America is now entering a Second Bold Era...in which we must take an enterprise-wide view; understand and leverage the powerfully unique, mutually beneficial and collaborative roles to be played by each sector; create new strategies for partnering to leverage the amazing assets across the enterprise; and remove inefficiencies and unnecessary encumbrances that arose over the past several decades.”

*Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier,
Director of the White House Office
of Science and Technology Policy*

Goals	Objectives	DoE	DOI	EPA	NASA	NIH	NIST	NOAA	NSF	SI	STATE	USDA
Support and balance the portfolio of Earth observations	Prioritize the availability and continuity of Earth observations	•	•	•	•			•	•	•		•
	Implement innovative Federal procurement and acquisition strategies		•		•			•				•
	Strengthen R&D capabilities that enhance usability	•	•		•		•	•	•	•		•
	Provide long-term stewardship	•	•		•			•		•		•
Engage the Earth Observations Enterprise	Strengthen coordination within the Earth Observations Enterprise		•		•		•	•			•	•
	Coordinate R&D of experimental technologies and techniques		•		•		•	•				•
	Recognize and analyze program models for leveraging data as a strategic asset		•		•			•		•		•
Improve the Impact of Earth Observations	Articulate the value of Earth observations	•	•		•	•		•	•	•		•
	Improve the Earth observation portfolio through introduction of new technologies including learning and adaption	•	•	•	•	•		•	•			•
	Promote and leverage international collaborations		•	•	•			•		•	•	•
	Develop a skilled and capable workforce		•		•			•	•	•		•

The table above lists the goals and objectives under this strategic plan and the departments and agencies that are involved in Earth observation activities. The dots indicate the objectives each agency currently plans to contribute to through mission-specific actions, subject to budgetary constraints and other approvals.

About the U.S. Group on Earth Observations Subcommittee

The United States Group on Earth Observations (USGEO) is chartered as a subcommittee of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Committee on Environment. The Subcommittee’s purpose is: to plan, and coordinate Federal Earth observations, research, and activities; foster improved Earth system data management and interoperability; identify high-priority user needs for Earth observations data; and engage international stakeholders by formulating the United States position for, and coordinating U.S. participation in the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO).

Reference

National Science & Technology Council. 2019 National Plan for Civil Earth Observations, Dec. 2019. Available at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Natl-Plan-for-Civil-Earth-Obs.pdf>