

Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment  
September 13, 2016

# **SUSTAINED ASSESSMENT VISION AND GOALS**

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# US Global Change Research Program

**Global Change Research Act  
(1990) Mandate:**

**“To provide for development and coordination of a comprehensive and integrated United States research program which will assist the Nation and the world to understand, assess, predict, and respond to human-induced and natural processes of global change.”**



United States  
Global Change  
Research Program



13 Federal Departments & Agencies +  
Executive Office of the President

# Diagnosis

- Climate change is happening now
- Our decision-making processes (e.g., plans, capital investments, operations, etc.) aren't revealing climate sensitivities and where they are, often what to do about it is unknown.
- More sectors of the economy, cities and individuals will be confronted with evaluating how climate change will affect their interests and how best to respond.
- The need for actionable information to support sound decision making is immense and will continue to grow as the climate question is increasingly asked
- A new approach is required if we are to assist the Nation in responding

# Goal

Enhance the ability of decision-makers at multiple scales throughout the United States to **anticipate, mitigate, and adapt** to changes in the global environment

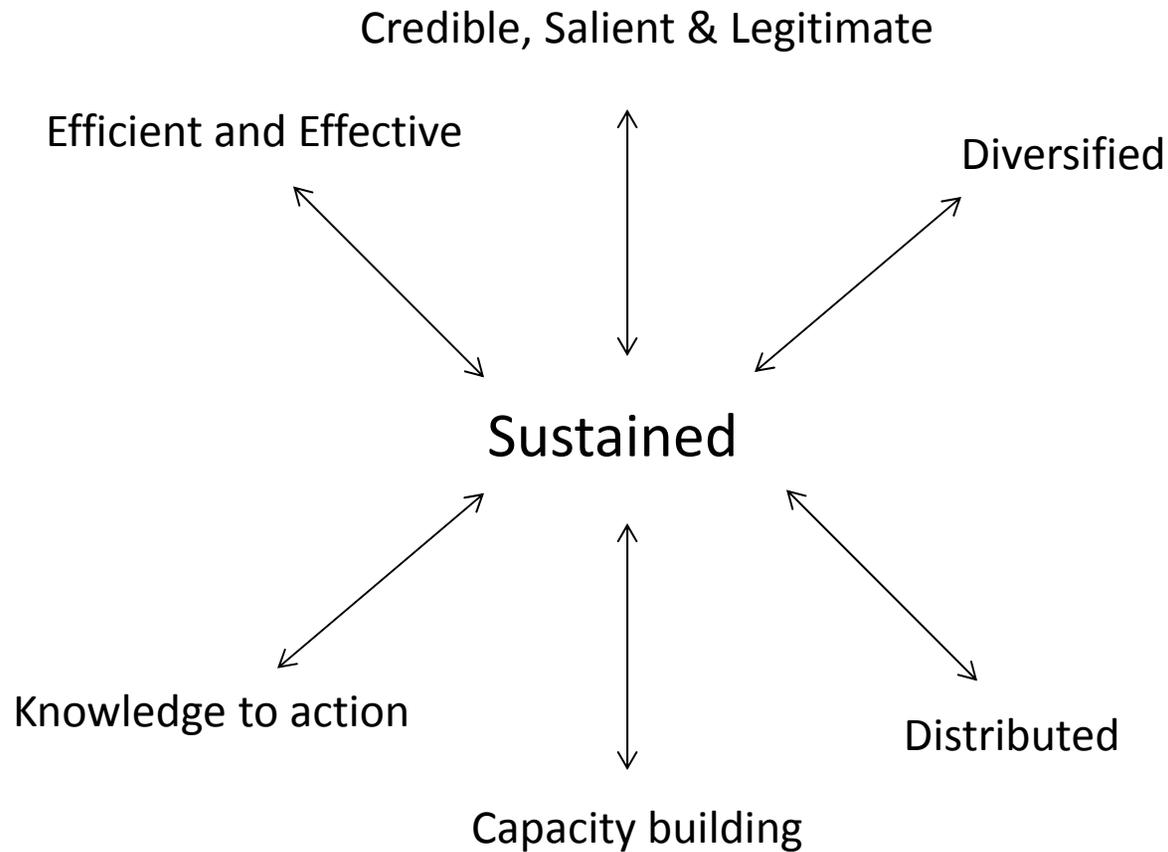
Preparing the Nation for Change:  
Building a Sustained National Climate Assessment Process

# Vision

An **inclusive, broad-based, and sustained process** for assessing and communicating the scientific knowledge of the vulnerabilities, impacts, risks, and opportunities associated with a changing global climate

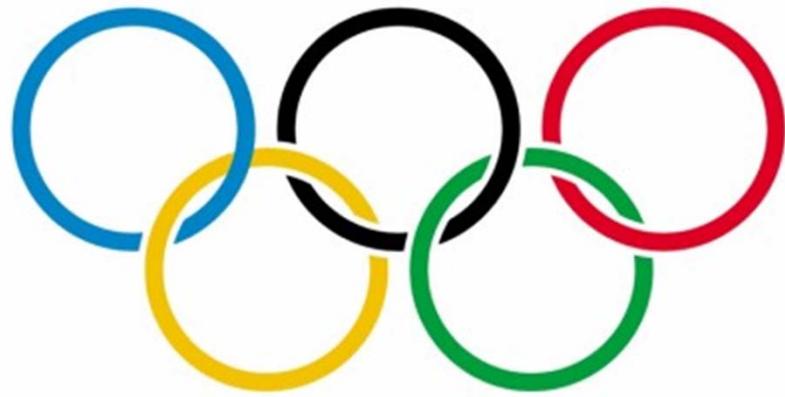
National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee  
September 2013

# Connotations of Sustained:



# Fundamental attributes

- SA is an ongoing concern, move away from on/off, spiky approach
- SA has a different orientation, approach and target audience



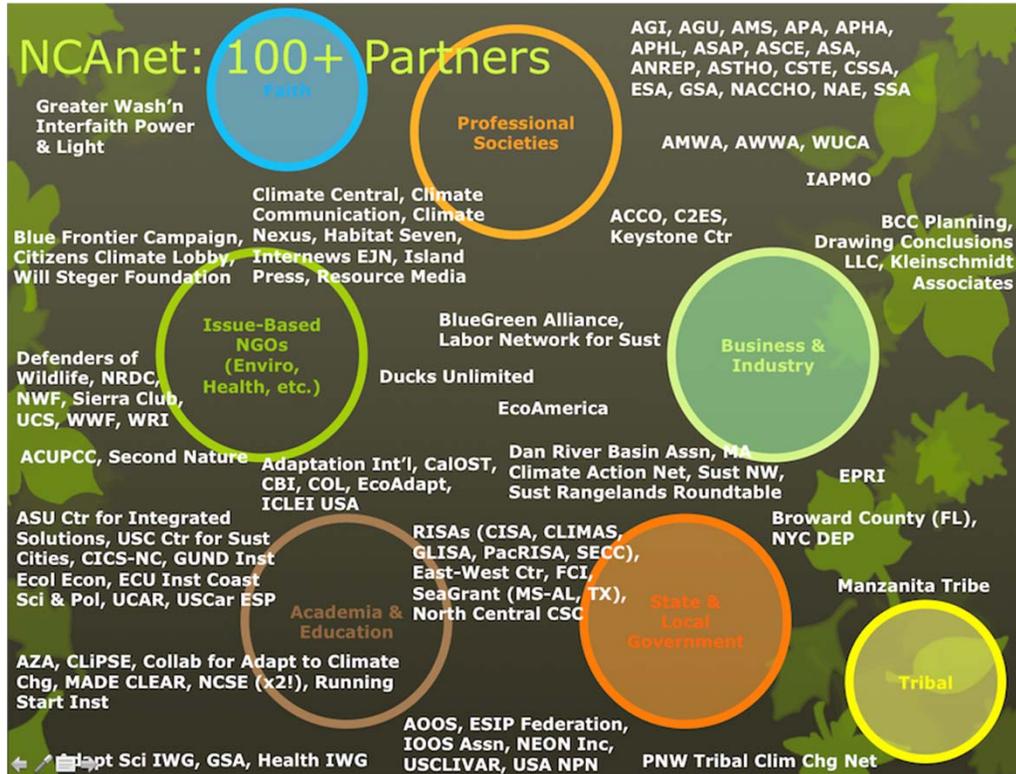
# Critical Elements

1. Establish **mechanisms to support enduring collaborative partnerships** that sustain assessment activities
2. Enhance and organize the **scientific foundations for managing the risks and opportunities** of climate change
3. Provide **infrastructure to support** a sustained assessment **process**
4. Diversify the **resource base** and set **priorities**

# 1. Mechanisms to Support Enduring Collaborative Partnerships

- **Expand partnerships** to build assessment **capacity**
- Encourage and support **communication** and engagement **networks**
- Build **international** engagement
- Launch and support a sustained assessment **advisory committee**

# Collaborative Partnerships



**WUCA**  
Water Utility Climate Alliance

**REPORT OF WORKSHOP  
PROCEEDINGS AND BREAKOUT  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Co-Producing Actionable Science for Water Utilities:  
Case Studies and Next Steps

May 2-3, 2016  
National Center for Atmospheric Research  
Boulder, Colorado

Sponsored by the Water Utility Climate Alliance

## 2. Scientific Foundations for Managing Risks and Opportunities

- Build capacity for **vulnerability** assessment
- Develop **indicators** of climate changes, impacts, vulnerabilities, resilience, opportunities, and preparedness
- Establish **scenario methods and products** for framing uncertainties and developing robust responses
- Develop **valuation methods** for measuring the consequences of change and the benefits of adaptation/mitigation responses
- Improve methods for assessing **confidence and uncertainty** in scientific information for decision-making
- Foster **adaptive learning** through the establishment of an assessment evaluation strategy

# Why a Sustained Assessment?

- Can more effectively support adaptation and mitigation decisions than the current process, which gets “re-invented” every four years
- Increases likelihood that government agencies can:
  - Fulfill legal requirements of the Global Change Research Act (GCRA) e.g., produce National Assessment every four years
  - Meet the risk management needs of decision-makers throughout the country
  - Meet their own needs to assess vulnerability and adapt
- Better supports a wider range of decision making in a more decentralized fashion
- Better supports ongoing stakeholder engagement



Thank You