NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction

NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction in College Park,Md., houses dedicated scientists who provide the United States with expert weather, water, and climate forecasts that touch everyone's lives. Opened in August 2012, the center provides a seamless suite of environmental analysis, diagnostics and forecasts from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean floor. This integrated facility advances NOAA's effort to build a Weather-Ready Nation through improved precision forecasts, effective communications and strong partnerships.

Center Details

Location: University of Maryland M Square Research Park, College Park, Maryland
Phone: 301-683-1314
Size: Four-stories plus a mechanical penthouse, 268,762 square foot
Personnel: Approximately 825 – NOAA employees, contractors and visiting scientists
Total Project Cost: $76.5 million
Directions: The center is located 1.5 miles from the entrance to the University of Maryland campus and about a half a mile from the College Park Metro Station on the Green Line (a 10-minute walk from the center)

The Scientists and Mission

The world-class facility is home to 825 meteorologists, scientists, data managers and other NOAA employees from NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Prediction, Satellite and Information Service and Air Resources Laboratory.

The National Weather Service National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) delivers science-based environmental predictions to the United States and the global community. It collaborates with partners and customers to produce reliable, timely, and accurate analyses, guidance, forecasts and warnings for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NCEP has five units at the center:

- NCEP's Central Operations
- Environmental Modeling Center
- Weather Prediction Center
- Ocean Prediction Center
- Climate Prediction Center

NCWCP Photos courtesy of University of Maryland

NOAA's Satellite and Information Service (NESDIS) acquires and manages the nation's environmental satellites and the NOAA national data centers, provides data and information services including Earth system monitoring, performs official assessments of the environment and conducts related research. NESDIS has two units at the center:

- Center for Satellite Applications and Research
- Office of Satellite and Product Operations/Satellite Products and Services Division

The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) provides the research foundation for understanding the complex systems that support our planet. OAR's Air Resources Laboratory, which conducts research and development in the fields of air quality, atmospheric dispersion, climate, and boundary layer science, is located at the center.

Building Resources

- A mechanical, electrical, and communications system to provide secure 24- hour a day, year round mission critical operations
- 10,000 sq. ft. data center
- 464-seat auditorium
- Nearly 40 conference rooms, 7 break rooms
- Research library
- Hot food deli, health unit and fitness center

The Building

Designed by the global architectural firm, HOK, the center has been awarded gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED™ Green Building Rating System. The builder used materials with recycled and local content and highly efficient glass.

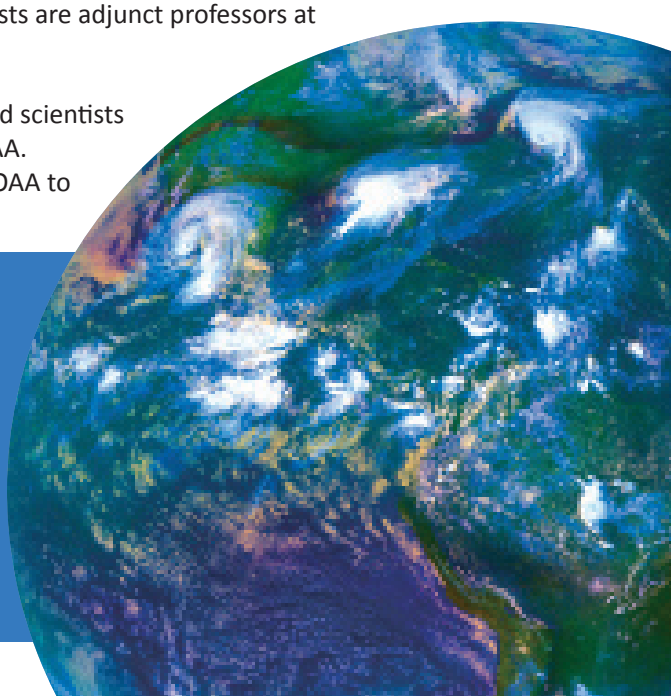
Sunshades were incorporated into the design on the south side of the building to optimize energy performance. Two-thirds of the roof surface is "green roof" covered with low growing plants for better insulation and protection. Rainwater bio-retention areas and a storm water cistern collect water for irrigation, and a four-story rainwater waterfall efficiently drains the non-green portion of the roof. NOAA employees at the center have the resources of a contemporary building designed to deliver a wide variety of forecasting services and support cutting-edge integrated earth systems research.

The Future

The day-to-day work that occurs within the walls of the center will bring research to operations more quickly and efficiently. Through new collaborations, the center will advance the frontiers of environmental intelligence, leading to improved products and services for the public.

Experts working at the center will influence the next generation of scientists through a new partnership with the University of Maryland. The university's atmospheric and oceanic science department offers an undergraduate major, which allows students to work on projects with researchers at the center and satisfy federal requirements to become certified meteorologists and oceanographers. Also, several NOAA scientists are adjunct professors at the university.

NOAA will also expand its Visiting Scientist Program that brings in talented scientists from around the world to collaborate with their U.S. counterparts in NOAA. Leveraging the expertise and resources of international talent enables NOAA to strengthen global scientific and research networks and partnerships.



For more information, visit:
NCEP - www.ncep.noaa.gov
NESDIS - www.nesdis.noaa.gov
OAR - www.arl.noaa.gov

NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction
5830 University Research Court
College Park, Md 20740
301-683-1314