



Ronald E. Hatcher
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New Jersey's Changing Climate

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ABSTRACT:

Within the past decade, New Jersey has experienced its wettest and warmest years in over a century of observations. Extreme events of late, including Sandy, Irene, and a number of hot summers, suggest that something is happening to NJ's climate regime. Natural variations alone cannot account for these NJ (and global) anomalies. Human influences on climate are significant, prompting discussion as to how society might mitigate or develop greater resiliency to increasing climate change. This presentation will explore the physical dimensions of the issue, both short and long term. It will also provide information on how interested individuals can contribute to the monitoring of weather/climate conditions in the local region by participating in the Community Collaborative Rain Hail and Snow Network and how they may follow current weather conditions via the Rutgers New Jersey Weather Network.

BIOGRAPHY:

David Robinson is a Distinguished Professor of Geography at Rutgers University and, for the past 27 years, New Jersey's State Climatologist. He has expertise in the collection and archiving of accurate climatic data, and is interested in climate change (particularly state and regional climate issues), hemispheric and regional snow cover dynamics, and interactions of snow cover with other climate elements. As state climatologist, he works with a wide array of user communities who require climatological expertise to solve problems. He oversees the Rutgers New Jersey Weather Network, a constellation of over 60 stations that observe a variety of variables every five minutes. He also sits on numerous state and national committees, and provides public education through presentations and media interviews. Dave has been a member of the National Academy of Sciences' Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate, is past president of the American Association of State Climatologists, is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society and has received the Lifetime Achievement award of the American Association of Geographers.