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## **Asheville Is Focusing on Climate at AMS's Annual Meeting**

For the third year in a row, Asheville, NC, is exhibiting at the AMS Annual Meeting and is the only community in the U.S. to do so. The decision indicates how Asheville, the home of NOAA's National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) and the Department of Defense's Strategic Climate Information Service, is positioning itself to support the transition of climate research to operational climate applications and products that serve government agencies and the private sector.

In the past 18 months, the Centers for Environmental and Climatic Interaction, or CECI ([www.climatealive.org](http://www.climatealive.org)), has emerged as new player in developing collaborations among federal and state agencies, academic institutions, non-profits and the private sector to serve the climate change-related needs of the nation.

In May 2008, Scientific Research Corporation (SRC) established a new earth sciences operation in Asheville to support climate and earth science initiatives, including those pertaining to climate change and national security ([www.scires.com/divisions/sti-es.htm](http://www.scires.com/divisions/sti-es.htm)). SRC's expansion gives impetus to CECI's efforts to bring additional federal agencies and programs to Asheville, and to attract academic and commercial partners who are engaged in understanding climate change and providing related services.

CECI and SRC are advocating the need for a national strategy that renews investment in Earth-observing systems and establishes and maintains a long-term record of key climate variables (termed Climate Data Records, or CDRs), as a part of the global climate archive at NCDC. CDRs ensure the scientific integrity and long-term utility of climate records and are a vital part of developing operational climate information products and services.

In October 2008, NOAA's National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service (NESDIS) invited applications for the Cooperative Institute for Satellite Climate Studies that will focus on 1) climate and satellite research and applications, 2) climate and satellite observations and monitoring, and 3) climate research and modeling. The announcement calls for the consortium of institutions that win the bid to have a presence in Asheville in order to work closely with NOAA's NCDC and their significant efforts for data stewardship, and to support NOAA's strategic goal to "understand and describe climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond."

AMS's incoming president is Tom Karl, NCDC's director and one of the numerous Ashevilleans who shared the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2007 in connection with their work on behalf of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The Asheville Chapter of the American Meteorological Society was the AMS Chapter of the Year in 2007, and it was also awarded first place in the 2008 Chapter Poster Award Competition.