



National Water Center

Responding to the nation’s growing need for water intelligence to inform water management decisions, NOAA built the nation’s first-ever National Water Center, located on the campus of the University of Alabama. The 65,000-square-foot “green” building will become the U.S. center for water forecast operations. The Center also supports research and collaboration across federal water science and management agencies.

The National Water Center will enable NOAA’s National Weather Service, in partnership with other federal agencies, to deliver a new generation of water information and services to the nation. These new services will improve preparedness for water-related disasters and inform high-value water decisions at the local, state and national levels.

The Vision and Mission

The National Water Center fosters scientific excellence and innovation, driving water prediction to support decisions for a water-resilient nation. Scientists at the Center will collaboratively research, develop and deliver state-of-the-science national hydrologic analyses, forecast information, data, decision-support services and guidance to support and inform essential emergency services and high-value water management decisions.

Center Details

Location: University of Alabama campus

Phone: 205-347-1316

Size: 65,000 square foot

Personnel: 200 capacity – Employees from NOAA, USGS, FEMA, Visiting Scientists and Contractors

Total Project Cost: \$23.55 million



The Building

The building is designed with unique features to support a new, highly collaborative and comprehensive water resources services to address the needs of stakeholders and help build more resilient communities. At the building's core is the operations center, a collaborative "nerve center" for day-to-day national situational awareness that will house staff from multiple agencies and support a common operating picture for water resources.

In keeping with NOAA's strong environmental mission, the National Water Center is a sustainable building with LEED gold certification through the U.S. Green Building Council. A number of environmentally sustainable features were used in the building design, including a drip irrigation system and water conservation features. The builder also used products with high recycled content that were either regionally or locally sourced, and wood that was certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.

Building Resources

- Water resources forecasting operations center
- Applied water resources research and development center
- Proving ground for transitioning research into operations
- Geo-intelligence facility
- Airborne snow and soil moisture observation analysis facility

The Future

The National Water Center launches a historic transformation and modernization of hydrology and water prediction services within NOAA's National Weather Service. By complementing existing regional river forecast centers with a national center, the National Weather Service water mission area mirrors the highly successful structure of the meteorological side of the agency. The National Water Center will play a critical role in enhancing water-related products and decision-support services across the country in support of the strategic objective to build a Weather-Ready Nation.

The National Water Center provides an unprecedented opportunity to improve federal coordination and collaboration in the water sector to address 21st century water resource challenges, such as water security and analysis and prediction of hydrologic extremes.

"The National Water Center will bring researchers, forecasters and stakeholders together to accelerate progress towards the improved water forecasts the nation needs to manage our precious water resources wisely."

—Kathryn Sullivan, Ph.D., NOAA Administrator

**For more information visit:
www.water.noaa.gov**

**NOAA National Water Center
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