

Collaborating Across Borders:

Resilience for U.S. Research Data and Beyond

EOSC Symposium, 5 November 2025

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Vice President

Open Science Leadership

AGU ADVANCING
EARTH AND
SPACE SCIENCES



Photo by [Brandon Mowinkel](#) on [Unsplash](#)

AGU By the Numbers



500,000+

global community of advocates and professionals in Earth and space sciences



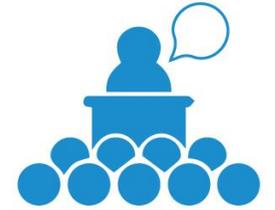
300,000+

social media followers



7,500+

articles published annually



30,000+

AGU24 meeting attendees



1,000+

editors and associate editors



20,000+

reviewers



20,000+

volunteers



~500

members of Union-level committees, task forces and advisory boards

75

council members

16

members of the board of directors

AGU's position statement on data affirms...

Earth, space, and environmental
science data are a **world heritage.**

AGU Strategic Goals

Catalyze
discovery and
solutions to
scientific and
societal
challenges

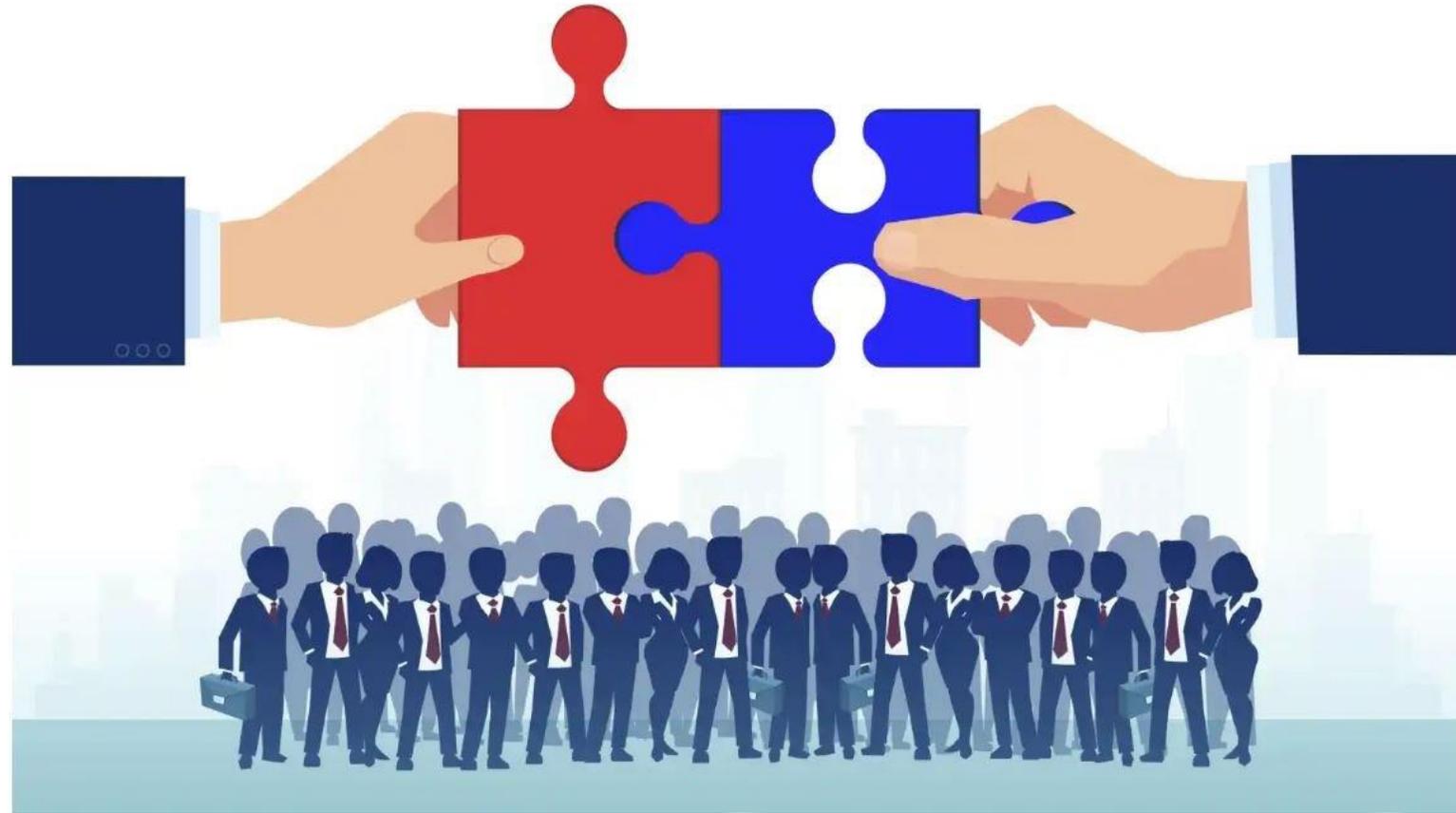


Promote and
exemplify an
inclusive
scientific
culture



Partner
broadly with
other
organizations
and sectors to
address scientific
and societal
challenges

AGU - Like Science – is Nonpartisan



Agenda for Today

What U.S. policies are affecting the scientific enterprise

How AGU has been responding

U.S. Federally Funded Research Data

What is next?

U.S. Policy Landscape

Brief Overview

Some Relevant Executive Orders and Policy Changes

- **Withdrawing the US from the Paris Climate Accord (January)**
- **Mass Reductions in Force (RIFs) at federal agencies (Ongoing)**
- **Canceled funding for National Climate Assessment (April)**
- **President's Budget Request called for cuts up to 50% at science agencies (May)**
- **Gold Standard Science (May)**
- **Proposal to repeal EPA greenhouse gas endangerment finding (July)**
- **Oversight of Federal Grantmaking (August)**
- **Offer of "compact" to Universities (October)**



Some Relevant Executive Orders and Policy Changes

- **Withdrawing the US from the Paris Climate Accord (January)**
 - **Organizations vowed to keep to the accord**
- **Mass Reductions in Force (RIFs) at federal agencies (Ongoing)**
 - **AGU and partners joined lawsuits**
- **Canceled funding for National Climate Assessment (April)**
 - **AGU and AMS supporting scientists to publicly report climate data**
- **President's Budget Request called for cuts up to 50% at science agencies (May)**
 - **AGU lobbied against budget cuts to science agencies**
- **Gold Standard Science (May)**
 - **AGU and partners wrote joint letter to Congress**
- **Proposal to repeal EPA greenhouse gas endangerment finding (July)**
 - **AGU testified against this proposal**
- **Oversight of Federal Grantmaking (August)**
 - **AGU and partners wrote joint letter to Congress**
- **Offer of "compact" to Universities (October)**
 - **8 of 9 Universities have rejected or signaled they will reject it**

What AGU is doing – Fighting for Science



From the Prow

HOME AGU IN THE NEWS ABOUT & GUIDELINES AGU.ORG

All That's Gold Does Not Glitter

By: [Brandon Jones](#) ON 20 AUGUST 2025 AT 9:15 AM

At the end of this week, federal agencies will have submitted their implementation of the Administration's executive order on "Gold Standard" guidance memo have been met with rightful outrage and grave concern from the scientific community.

I am heartened to see colleagues from across the scientific enterprise share their perspective from the editors-in-chief of AGU's Journals in the latest AGU Action Alert.

Our editors-in-chief call thoughtful attention to several points from the AGU Action Alert, including:

- That this is a further attempt by the administration to undo the damage of unfounded attacks on the U.S. scientific enterprise.
- That this order suppresses critical scientific facts because of the administration's political agenda.



Find My Legislators AGU Science Policy Program Information AGU Science Policy Resource Center Hello, Elizabeth!

Speak Up for the Earth and Space Sciences!

August Days of Action: Call your legislators to support science 1 point

Strength in numbers: Make a quick phone call to your Members of Congress with our script. Let's make hundreds of calls for science!

Call

Help Elevate Science Policy with AGU Action Alerts! 1 point

Easily take action on critical issues--get timely information sent to your inbox

Sign Up



Research and Developments

Research & Developments is a blog for brief updates to provide context for news that impacts science day. If you have a tip, email us at [rd@agu.org](#)



NASA Planning for Unauthorized Shutdown of Carbon



Tracking Science Policy Across the U.S. Administration

U.S. Federally Funded Research Data

Layers of Complexity

Starting in January 2025...a few examples

Removal of data elements not aligned with the administration's priorities.

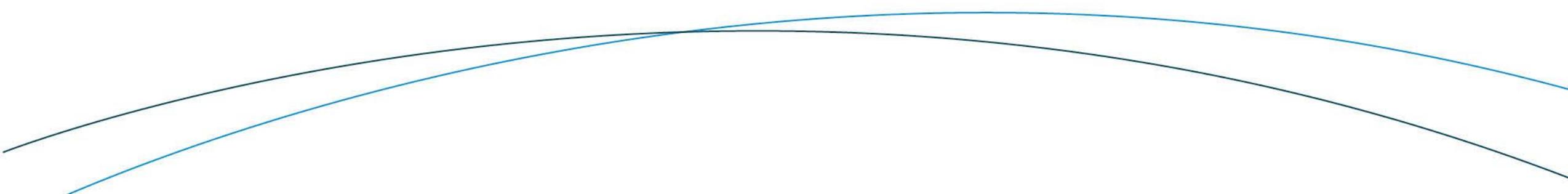
Re: The terms “climate change” and “gender identity”, and more.

Repurposing of Climate.gov (NOAA) website and removal of full-time federal and contractor staff supporting the platform.

U.S. premier platform for climate information for the public.

Removal of Globalchange.gov (USGCRP) website

Hosts five legislatively mandated reports on the state of the climate.





independent, nonprofit, and immune to politics

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The [Fifth National Climate Assessment](#) is back online! See [Updates](#).

Our project director, Rebecca Lindsey, made the [TIME100 Climate 2025](#) list!

They're hiding the truth. We're fighting back.

From Climate.gov to the National Climate Assessment, climate information you can trust is being hidden, erased, and replaced with misinformation. We're not letting that happen. We're building Climate.us—[independent](#), [nonprofit](#), and [immune to politics](#). But we can't do it without you.

[Donate Now](#)

Join the fight. Keep the facts alive.

“The...administration’s broad threats to science—climate science especially..”

“The Trump administration’s broad threats to science—climate science especially—go far beyond the potential closure of the Mauna Loa Observatory.

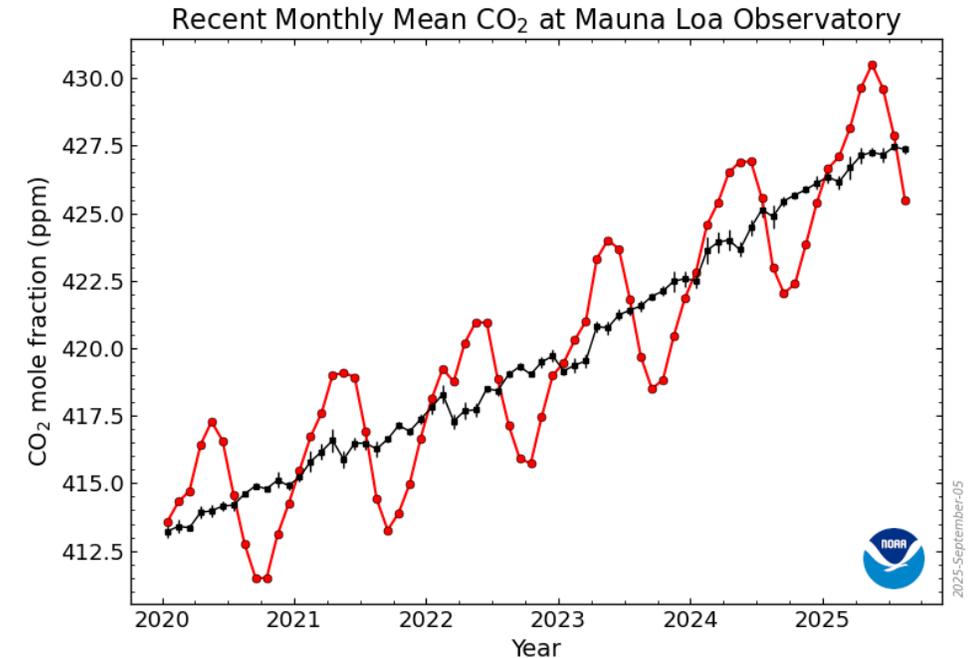
Budget proposals for 2026 call for the elimination of the office within NOAA that supports scientific research of the atmosphere and ocean.

Also planned are major cuts to climate research at NASA, the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation.

Some in Congress are pushing back.

But it’s early days, and the threat remains.”

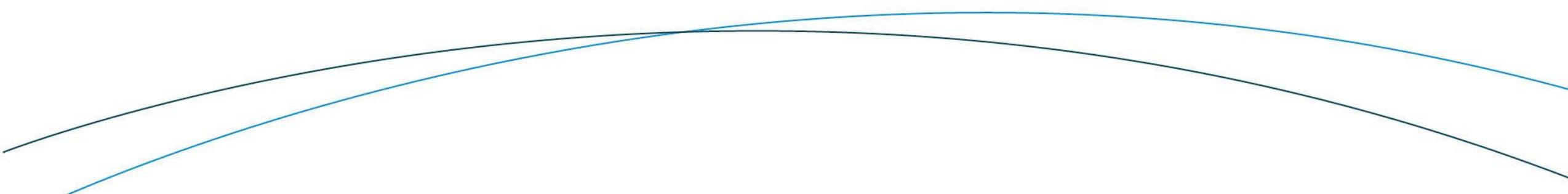
- The Economist, 30 July 2025



House and Senate bills show divergent funding levels for science

Agency <i>(In millions)</i>	FY25 Enacted		FY26 PBR	FY26 House	FY26 Senate
NASA Science Mission Directorate	\$7,334.20	-47%	\$3,907.60	\$6,000.00	\$7,300.00
NOAA	\$6,182.50	-27%	\$4,515.30	\$5,795.05	\$6,142.29
NSF	\$9,060.00	-57%	\$3,903.15	\$7,000.00	\$9,000.00
USGS	\$1,450.20	-39%	\$891.56	\$1,368.39	\$1,485.35

What are the risks for research data?

- **Complacency / Hesitancy (us)**
 - **People (data experts losing jobs)**
 - **Tools / Derived Data Products / Web Access / Infrastructure (going offline; defunded)**
 - **Data (difficult to access; no longer managed)**
- 

What does resilience look like?

Without data experts, saving copies of important datasets has very limited short-term use, and even less long-term use.

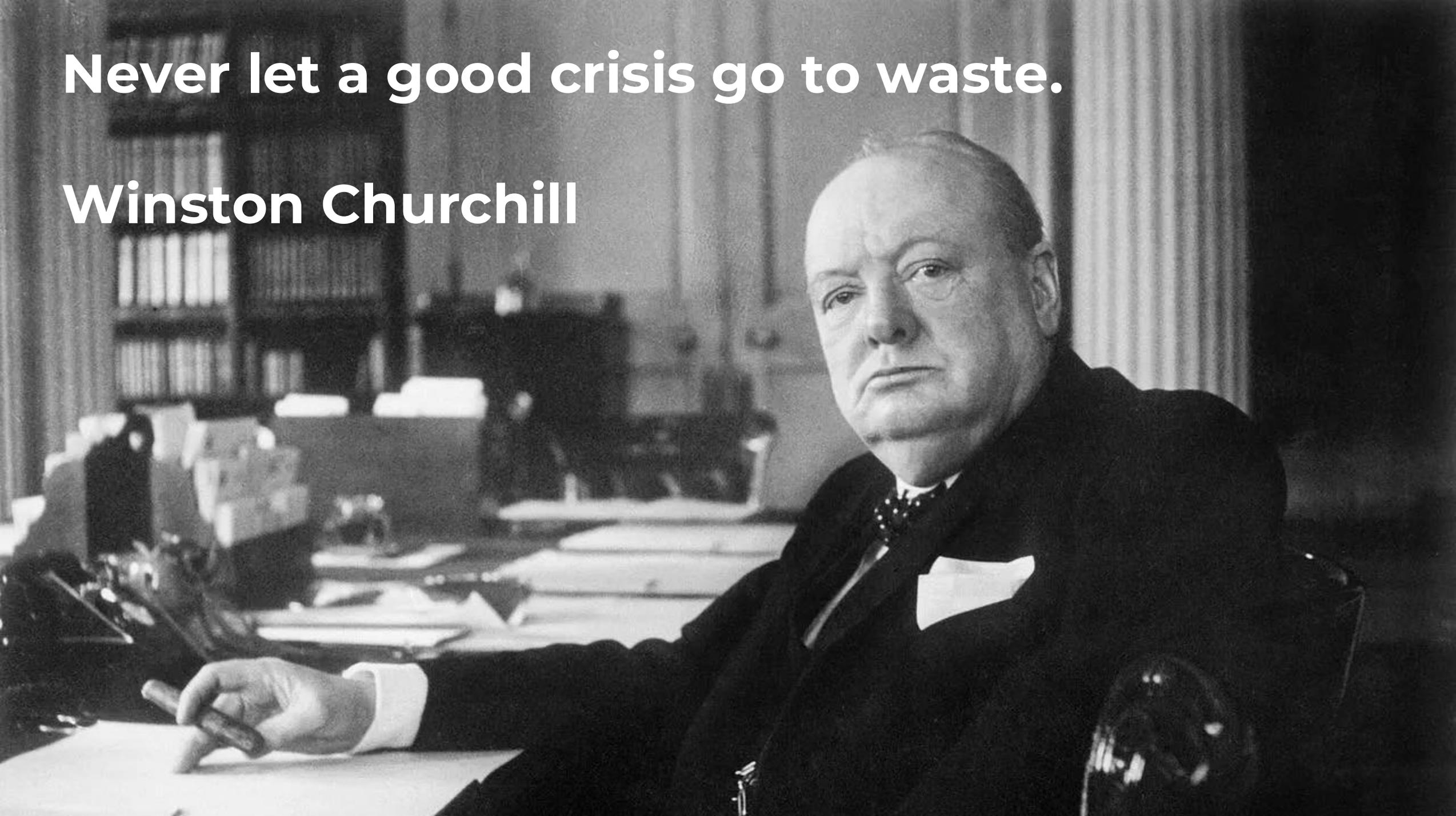
Assessing risk and focusing action.

There is no single approach.

- Best effort on assessment to cover the multitude of needs and priorities.
- People vs Data products vs Online applications vs Datasets / data systems
- Chunk it out – find the experts – funding – work the problem.

Never let a good crisis go to waste.

Winston Churchill



Collaborative, useful, sustainable

- Global collaboration
- Data services and infrastructure aligned with the needs and workflows of researchers
- Diversified funding models that include all stakeholders

Build what we need.

Current Efforts

The visible portion of the iceberg.

Impactful Datasets - AGU Nomination Request

- Mobilize experts to methodically identify at-risk and global priority data
- Ensure these data remain discoverable and accessible as data hosting locations shift.
 - Impactful dataset nominations (20 October cut-off for commentary)
 - Validate entries
 - Quality check information
 - AGU Commentary (early 2026)
 - AGU Special Collection (announced with the publication of the commentary)

Data User Stories

Dimensions of Impact derived from the Geoscience in Action report that advances the UN SDGs

- **People Dimension - Positive impact on individuals:** education, training, disaster response and prediction
- **Planet Dimension - Positive impact on physical systems:** geophysical phenomena, conservation, climate, environmental indicators
- **Prosperity Dimension - Positive impact on socioeconomic systems:** economic good, social equity, humanitarian relief, community resilience

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0Tlb1a29C2l-lNyl8qf_1oG1tFBosYW5qGBBj70D42Nhn_w/viewform

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Future Directions for Earth Observations and Data Stewardship Hybrid Workshop (December 2 - 3, 2025)

This workshop will bring together leaders from across sectors, including government, academia, the private sector, and philanthropy, to explore strategies for building a resilient and collaborative Earth observations ecosystem.

Topics will include:

- Roles and responsibilities across sectors for collection, stewardship, coordination, and governance of Earth observation data
- Barriers and opportunities to strengthen governance and improve data sharing of Earth observation data
- Opportunities for advancing collaboration and impact of a globally integrated Earth observation system

Participants will discuss how to enhance governance structures, support innovation, and promote better coordination across the growing network of Earth observation providers and users.

https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/45531_12-2025_future-directions-for-earth-observations-and-data-stewardship-a-workshop

Green House Gas Coalition



The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Coalition brings together technical expertise from academia, private sector, NGOs, and former government officials to strengthen and coordinate the U.S. greenhouse gas measurement, monitoring, reporting, and verification (MMRV) ecosystem.

As a non-partisan technical group convened by the Data Foundation's robust MMRV ecosystem. The Coalition employs a phased approach: technical communities, identifying critical gaps, and facilitating inform develop dedicated workstreams to advance science-based solutions, approaches.

The Coalition serves as the technical backbone for the MMRV commu together effectively to drive climate action.



Sonia Wang
Senior Advisor at the
Data Foundation
Acting Chair



Riley Duren
CEO of Carbon
Mapper
Acting Advisory Body



Anna Michalak
Founding Director of
the Carnegie Climate
and Resilience Hub
at Carnegie
Institution for
Science
Acting Advisory Body



Sassan Saatchi
Founder and CEO of
CTrees
Acting Advisory Body



Ben Poulter
Senior Scientist at
Spark Climate
Solutions
Acting Advisory Body

Dearly Departed Datasets

On this All Hallow's Eve, let us recognize the losses of federal datasets that served the American people. Thank you to everyone who helped honor them by submitting a dataset, variable, or tool that has been terminated or removed.

Read more about what this all means in this Federation of American Scientists [blogpost](#).

Terminated Datasets

<https://essentialdata.us/in-memoriam.html>

**Agricultural Labor
Survey (ALS)**

dataset terminated

USDA

**Community
Resilience Estimates
Equity Supplement**

dataset terminated

CENSUS

**Current Population
Survey Food Security
Supplement (CPS-
FSS)**

dataset terminated

USDA

**Demographic and
Health Surveys
(DHS)**

dataset terminated*

USAID



Collaborative, useful, sustainable

- Global collaboration
- Data services and infrastructure aligned with the needs and workflows of researchers
- Diversified funding models that include all stakeholders

Build what we need.

Thank you



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