

Committee on the Review of Progress Toward Implementing the Decadal Survey-Thriving on Our Changing Planet: A Decadal Strategy for Earth Observation from Space – Discussing Report Recommendations on the Next Decadal Survey

October 28, 2025

Hybrid Meeting

Public Agenda

In Person at the Beckman Center, 100 Academy Way Irvine, CA | The Board Room

Online via Zoom and Livestream

All times in Pacific Daylight Time

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025

OPEN SESSION

Livestream Remote Access

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Joint Session with the Committee on Earth Science and Applications from Space (CESAS)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

8:00 AM Meet in the Hotel Lobby to Carpool to the Beckman Center
9:00 AM Members and Staff Only
9:45 AM Meeting Adjourns to Open Session; Break (15 minutes)

OPEN SESSION

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10:00 AM	Introductory Remarks and Discussion on CESAS Meeting Day 1 Sessions	William Gail and Anne Nolin, CESAS Co-Chairs
10:45 AM	Break (15 minutes)	
11:00 AM	Overview of 2017 Decadal Survey (20 minute presentation & 10 minute discussion period)	Waleed Abdalati, Professor, University of Colorado (virtual) & William Gail, Consultant, EBM Consulting
11:30 AM	Overview of 2024 Midterm Assessment of Decadal Survey (20 minute presentation & 10 minute discussion period)	Christian Kummerow, Professor, Colorado State University & Anna Michalak, Founding Director, Carnegie Climate and Resilience Hub Carnegie Institution for Science

Midterm Review of the 2017 Earth Sciences Decadal Survey
October 28, 2025

12:00 PM Working Lunch for Members, Speakers, and Staff (45 minutes)

12:45 PM Panel: Applications Panel

(15 minute presentations & 30 minute discussion period)

What high level applications are likely to be of highest value to NASA ESD going forward? How can stakeholders be involved in providing both direction and resources to see such applications through? How can the applications community be organized to provide continuous guidance to NASA ESD regarding new opportunities and the need for new observations as capabilities and priorities evolve? How should the applications community interface with the observation community to make optimal use of existing sensors from domestic and international partners, and what role could small, Venture or Explorer size missions play in the applications framework? How should issues be prioritized if funding changes?

Panel Moderator: Susan Ustin, Professor, University of California, Davis (virtual)

Panelists: Kass Green, President, Kass Green and Associates
AJ Purdy, Senior Research Scientist, OpenET
David Skole, Professor, Michigan State University

2:00 PM Panel: Modeling Panel

(15 minute presentations & 30 minute discussion period)

Many of the important societal applications require forecasts from Earth System models. Foundation models, either directly or with observations, could play important roles in advancing forecasts in specific NASA ESD focus areas. How can the modeling community be organized to better articulate its observing needs to make progress in either specific ESD focus areas or the broad Earth System model as a whole? What specific steps are needed between now and the next decadal survey to prioritize specific activities and/or observations? How should issues be prioritized if funding changes?

Panel Moderator: Xubin Zeng, Professor, University of Arizona

Panelists: Gregory Elsaesser, Research Scientist, Columbia University and NASA GISS (virtual)
Everette Joseph, Director, National Center for Atmospheric Research
Johannes Muelmenstaedt, Earth Scientist, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (virtual)

3:15 PM Break (15 minutes)

Midterm Review of the 2017 Earth Sciences Decadal Survey
October 28, 2025

3:30 PM

Panel: Continuity Panel

(15 minute presentations & 30 minute discussion period)

Continuous measurements are needed for both Weather and Climate observation, but cannot be supported by any realistic budget assumptions, let alone a significantly reduced ESD budget. Aside from operational weather observations, how can continuity be achieved for critical Earth System parameters while respecting the need to still develop new technologies and observe new parameters with existing budgets? Do we need continuity of measurements, or can there be continuity in parameters without the same or even similar sensors? Is there a program size that would optimize the creativity of the community in terms of achieving continuity with significantly fewer resources?

Panel Moderator: Stacey Boland, Principal System Engineer,
Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Panelists: Waleed Abdalati, Professor, University of Colorado (virtual)
William Dietrich, Professor, University of California (virtual)
Duane Waliser, Chief Scientist of Earth Science and
Technology Directorate, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

4:45 PM

Panel: Collaboration Panel

(15 minute presentations & 30 minute discussion period)

What lessons were learned from the previous decadal survey regarding its assumptions about interagency and international collaboration? Can international organizations such as the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites play a more effective role in defining core principles/standards that would make collaborations simpler? What are the best ways to incorporate private sector data into applications and/or climate records?

Panel Moderator: Christian Kummerow, Professor, Colorado State University

Panelists: Mark Abbott, President Emeritus,
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (virtual)
Annmarie Eldering, Founder, Eldering Consulting, LLC (virtual)
Anna Michalak, Founding Director, Carnegie Climate and
Resilience Hub Carnegie Institution for Science

6:00 PM

Discussion: Implementing the Midterm Recommendations/Guidance for the Decadal Survey

Roundtable discussion between all participants

Moderators: Christian Kummerow and Anna Michalak

6:30 PM

Meeting Adjourns to an alternate location

6:45 PM

Working Dinner at Andrei's Restaurant, 2607 Main Street, Irvine, CA 92614. Phone:

949.387.8887

8:30 PM

Meeting Adjourns for the Day

IMPORTANT NOTES

Presenters:

- Please do not include ITAR-controlled or sensitive information in your presentation.
- A National Academies Board staff member will ask you to sign a form before the meeting allowing us permission to use your likeness and presentation for our livestream video, which will be posted on our Board website after the meeting. Please get in touch with us before the meeting if you have any concerns about this usage.

Board Members and Presenters:

- Remote access will be provided through Zoom. This will allow you to participate in the meeting even if you can't be physically present.
- Please note that Zoom allows audio and any materials exchanged or viewed during the session to be recorded and shared.
- By participating in this activity, you agree to let your voice, likeness, and any materials you provide be recorded for use and dissemination. This includes any language, format, or media now known or later devised.
- You release the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine from any and all claims, liability, or damages arising from any such use. If you disagree, please do not join the session.

Members of the General Public:

- Remote access will be provided through a live stream on Vimeo. This will also be publicly available and posted on the Board website. You do not need to register.

Thank you all for your cooperation, and we look forward to a successful meeting.