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The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) was created in the late 1950s by faculty from 14 leading universities to support and nourish the atmospheric sciences. These visionaries recognized the need for community observational and computational facilities and a world-class research staff, which together would allow the community to carry out complex, long-term scientific programs beyond the reach of individual universities.



Connections—View a short video about who we are and what we do. *QuickTime, 41MB - 07'37"*

In partnership with the [National Science Foundation \(NSF\)](#), they established the [National Center for Atmospheric Research \(NCAR\)](#). Since its inception UCAR has managed NCAR, on behalf of NSF, to address pressing scientific and societal needs involving the atmosphere and its interactions with the

oceans, land, and Sun — what is now called Earth system science.

UCAR's role in supporting and complementing the work of academia has grown to include new research, service, and education programs in the [UCAR Community Programs \(UCP\)](#) and [Office of Education and Outreach \(EO\)](#).

UCAR now comprises 73 [member universities](#), 21 [affiliates](#) and 48 [international affiliates](#). Collectively, they strengthen and promote professional interactions, collaborations, and collegiality in the broader community.

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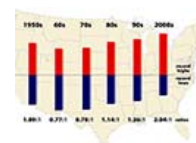
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Community Tools

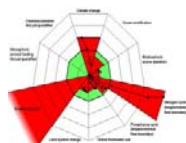
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Human activities have already pushed the Earth system beyond three of the planet's biophysical thresholds, with consequences that are detrimental or even catastrophic for large parts of the world; six others may well be crossed in the next decades, conclude 29 European, Australian and U.S. scientists in an article in the Sept. 24 issue of the scientific journal *Nature*.

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Along with usually persistent rains, there was a different kind of watery surprise this summer for people on the U.S. Atlantic coast. From June into early July, tides ran as high as 60 centimeters (2 feet) above predicted values from the barrier islands of the Southeast to the rocky shores of Maine...

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