



NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



NOAA In Your State

Tennessee

NOAA is an agency that enriches life through science. Our reach goes from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean floor as we work to keep citizens informed of the changing environment around them. From daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings, and climate monitoring to fisheries management, coastal restoration and supporting marine commerce, NOAA's products and services support economic vitality and affect more than one-third of America's gross domestic product. NOAA's dedicated scientists use cutting-edge research and high-tech instrumentation to provide citizens, planners, emergency managers and other decision makers with reliable information they need when they need it.

The following is a summary of NOAA facilities, staff, programs, or activities based in, or focused on, your state or territory: Starting with highlights, then by [congressional districts and cities or towns](#), and then [statewide programs](#).

Highlights of NOAA in Tennessee

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------|
| Atmospheric Turbulence and Diffusion Division | Oak Ridge | TN-3 |
| NOAA High Performance Computing | Oak Ridge | TN-3 |

The state of Tennessee also has three Weather Forecasting Offices.

Weather Forecast Offices

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Morristown/Knoxville/ Tri-Cities | TN-1 |
| Nashville | TN-6 |
| Memphis | TN-9 |

NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) are staffed around-the-clock every day and provide the best possible weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings to residents of Tennessee. Highly trained forecasters issue warnings and forecasts for events, including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, floods, and heat waves. This essential information is provided to the general public, media, emergency management and law enforcement officials, the aviation and marine communities, agricultural interests, businesses, and others. Information is disseminated in many ways, including through dedicated government channels, satellite, the Internet, and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards. Forecasters also provide Impact-based Decision-Support Services (IDSS), both remotely and on-site, during critical emergencies, such as wildfires, floods, chemical spills, and for major recovery efforts. The WFO collects and disseminates precipitation, river, and rainfall data, and prepares local climatological data. Each WFO has a Warning Coordination Meteorologist who actively conducts outreach and educational programs, which helps build strong working relationships with local partners in emergency management, government, the media and academic communities. The WFO operates Automated Surface Observing Stations (ASOS), as well as the local Doppler Weather Radar, which provides critical information about current weather conditions. The radar data enables forecasters to issue warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods.

TN-1

Morristown/Knoxville/Tri-Cities

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Weather Forecast Office](#)- See [Page 1](#) for details.

TN-3

Oak Ridge

Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) - [High Performance Computing and Communications](#)

The Office of the Chief Information Officer manages research and development high performance computing for weather and climate modeling, research, and predictions, supporting improvements in areas such as the prediction of severe weather, seasonal prediction of temperature and precipitation, and forecasting the next Sandy-like storm.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) – [Atmospheric Turbulence and Diffusion Division](#)

The Atmospheric Turbulence & Diffusion Division (ATDD) of NOAA's Air Resources Laboratory is located in Oak Ridge (Anderson County), TN. ATDD concentrates on air quality, boundary layer, and climate-related research directed toward issues of national and global importance. Air quality and boundary layer research at ATDD is designed to improve scientific understanding of the exchange of energy, moisture, and trace species between the atmosphere and the earth's surface, with a goal of improving weather, climate, and air quality predictions and forecasts. ATDD's climate-related research includes reference-grade measurement of climate change and related physical and chemical processes through the U.S. Climate Reference Network.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [NOAA High Performance Computing](#)

A high performance, 6-petaflop supercomputer, located at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory, allows researchers to develop and refine advanced weather and climate models. Named Gaea, this high-performance computer was funded by a \$73 million American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 investment through a collaborative partnership between NOAA and the Department of Energy.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) Air Resources Lab- [Forest Carbon Sequestration Study](#)

Over the years, the Air Resources Laboratory has collaborated with other NOAA laboratories, government agencies, and university partners, such as Vanderbilt University, San Diego State University, the University of Arizona, and Colorado State University, who have added additional instruments at Walker Branch and Chestnut Ridge field sites for short- and

long-term studies. The combined long-term record of measurements provides a better understanding of how rising CO₂ concentrations and increasing average temperatures affect the forest's ability to sequester carbon into the forest ecosystem. The data shed light on how the forest responds to changing environmental conditions, in particular changes in the timing and length of the growing season and changes in precipitation and moisture. This can be used to improve NOAA's weather and air quality forecast models and validate long-term climate model predictions.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Surface Energy Budget Network \(SEBN\)](#)

NOAA's Air Resources Laboratory Surface Energy Budget Network (SEBN) has several observational sites that support the World Climate Research Programme's Global Energy and Water Exchanges Project (GEWEX). One of NOAA's SEBN sites is located near Oak Ridge, TN. SEBN sites provide detailed measurements of the flow of heat, water vapor, momentum, carbon dioxide, air temperature, and relative humidity between the land surface and the atmosphere. They also improve our understanding of the physical and biological processes that occur at the land-atmosphere interface. Observations from these sites are used to test and improve the current generation of land surface models which help predict regional and global climate.

TN-6

Crossville

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [U.S. Climate Reference Network](#)

The US Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operationally viable research network of more than 138 climate stations that are deployed nationwide. Data from the USCRN are used in various climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. The USCRN provides the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). ARL/ATDD manage the USCRN in partnership with NOAA's NESDIS/NCEI.

Nashville

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Weather Forecast Office](#)- See [Page 1](#) for details.

TN-9

Memphis

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Center Weather Service Unit](#)

Housed in the Federal Aviation Administration's Memphis Air Traffic Control Center (ARTCC), the NWS Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU) provides forecasts and other weather information to ARTCC personnel for use in directing the safe, smooth flow of aviation traffic in Arkansas, northern Mississippi, western Tennessee, and northwestern Alabama.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Weather Forecast Office](#)- See [Page 1](#) for details.

Statewide

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Regional Geodetic Advisor](#)

The Regional Geodetic Advisor is a National Ocean Service (NOS) employee that resides in a region and serves as a liaison between the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and its public, academic and private sector constituents within their assigned region. NGS has a Regional Geodetic Advisor stationed in Little Rock, AR serving the Central Plains region - Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Tennessee. The Geodetic Advisor provides training, guidance and assistance to constituents managing geospatial activities that are tied to the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), the framework and coordinate system for all positioning activities in the Nation. The Geodetic Advisor serves as a subject matter expert

in geodesy and regional geodetic issues, collaborating internally across NOS and NOAA to ensure that all regional geospatial activities are properly referenced to the NSRS.

National Weather Service - [NEXRAD \(WSR-88D\) Systems](#)

NEXRAD is used to warn the people of the United States about dangerous weather and its location. This radar technology allows meteorologists to warn the public to take shelter with more notice than ever before. The NEXRAD network provides significant improvements in severe weather and flash flood warnings, air traffic safety, flow control for air traffic, resource protection at military bases, and management of water, agriculture, forest, and snow removal. NEXRAD radar has a range of up to 250 nautical miles, and can provide information about wind speed and direction, as well as the location, size, and shape of precipitation. There are 159 operational NEXRAD radar systems deployed throughout the United States and overseas, of which three are in Tennessee.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Automated Surface Observing Systems Stations](#)

The Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) program is a joint effort of the National Weather Service (NWS), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Department of Defense (DOD). ASOS serves as the Nation's primary surface weather observing network. ASOS is designed to support weather forecast activities and aviation operations and, at the same time, support the needs of the meteorological, hydrological, and climatological research communities. ASOS works non-stop, updating observations every minute, 24 hours a day, every day of the year observing basic weather elements, such as cloud cover, precipitation, wind, sea level pressure, and conditions, such as rain, snow, freezing rain, thunderstorms, and fog. There are nine ASOS stations in Tennessee.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Cooperative Observer Program Sites](#)

The National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is truly the Nation's weather and climate observing network of, by and for the people. More than 10,000 volunteers take observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data are representative of where people live, work and play. The COOP was formally created in 1890 under the NWS Organic Act to provide observational meteorological data, usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals, to provide observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the NWS. The data are also used by other federal (including the Department of Homeland Security), state and local entities, as well as private companies (such as the energy and insurance industries). For example, the energy sector uses COOP data to calculate the Heating and Cooling Degree Days which are used to determine individuals' energy bills monthly. There are 132 COOP sites in Tennessee.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Transmitters](#)

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service (NWS) forecast office. NWR broadcasts official NWS warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it the single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages). Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the NWS. NWR includes 1,100 transmitters covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. There are 21 NWR transmitters in Tennessee.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Students for [Zero Waste Week](#)

Students are inviting their local communities to "Go Green and Think Blue" by joining them in the annual *Students for Zero Waste Week campaign*. During this campaign led by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, students focus on reducing land-based waste in order to protect the health of local marine environments. These young leaders are raising awareness of how single-use plastic and other types of litter affect the health of local watersheds, national marine sanctuaries, and the ocean. In addition, some schools are looking at ways to reduce their energy use on campus with hopes of raising awareness of how the burning of fossil fuels also impacts the health of the ocean.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [NOAA Ocean Guardian Youth Ambassador Program](#)

Youth aged 13-18 from across the United States and its territories that are committed to ocean conservation and stewardship of our blue planet can apply to become a NOAA Ocean Guardian Youth Ambassador. This year-long program looks for enthusiastic youth with new ideas and a unique perspective who want to learn more about [America's underwater treasures](#) and share their passion with others. Youth learn how to become a leader at their school or in their local community to make a difference in the conservation of the ocean through marine protected areas.

***NOAA In Your State* is managed by [NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs](#) and maintained with information provided by NOAA's Line, Corporate, and Staff Offices. Questions about specific programs or offices should be directed to the NOAA Line, Corporate, or Staff Office listed.**

More information for those offices may be found at [NOAA.gov](#).
