

SUBCHAPTER I—UNITED STATES GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM

§ 2931. Findings and purpose

(a) Findings

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Industrial, agricultural, and other human activities, coupled with an expanding world population, are contributing to processes of global change that may significantly alter the Earth habitat within a few human generations.

(2) Such human-induced changes, in conjunction with natural fluctuations, may lead to significant global warming and thus alter world climate patterns and increase global sea levels. Over the next century, these consequences could adversely affect world agricultural and marine production, coastal habitability, biological diversity, human health, and global economic and social well-being.

(3) The release of chlorofluorocarbons and other stratospheric ozone-depleting substances is rapidly reducing the ability of the atmosphere to screen out harmful ultraviolet radiation, which could adversely affect human health and ecological systems.

(4) Development of effective policies to abate, mitigate, and cope with global change will rely on greatly improved scientific understanding of global environmental processes and on our ability to distinguish human-induced from natural global change.

(5) New developments in interdisciplinary Earth sciences, global observing systems, and computing technology make possible significant advances in the scientific understanding and prediction of these global changes and their effects.

(6) Although significant Federal global change research efforts are underway, an effective Federal research program will require efficient interagency coordination, and coordination with the research activities of State, private, and international entities.

(b) Purpose

The purpose of this subchapter is to provide for development and coordination of a comprehensive and integrated United States research program which will assist the Nation and the world to understand, assess, predict, and respond to human-induced and natural processes of global change.

(Pub. L. 101-606, title I, §101, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3096.)

§ 2932. Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences

(a) Establishment

The President, through the Council, shall establish a Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences. The Committee shall carry out Council functions under section 6651 of title 42 relating to global change research, for the purpose of increasing the overall effectiveness and productivity of Federal global change research efforts.

(b) Membership

The Committee shall consist of at least one representative from—

- (1) the National Science Foundation;
- (2) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
- (3) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the Department of Commerce;
- (4) the Environmental Protection Agency;
- (5) the Department of Energy;
- (6) the Department of State;
- (7) the Department of Defense;
- (8) the Department of the Interior;
- (9) the Department of Agriculture;
- (10) the Department of Transportation;
- (11) the Office of Management and Budget;
- (12) the Office of Science and Technology Policy;
- (13) the Council on Environmental Quality;
- (14) the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences of the National Institutes of Health; and
- (15) such other agencies and departments of the United States as the President or the Chairman of the Council considers appropriate.

Such representatives shall be high ranking officials of their agency or department, wherever possible the head of the portion of that agency or department that is most relevant¹ to the purpose of the subchapter described in section 2931(b) of this title.

(c) Chairperson

The Chairman of the Council, in consultation with the Committee, biennially shall select one of the Committee members to serve as Chairperson. The Chairperson shall be knowledgeable and experienced with regard to the administration of scientific research programs, and shall be a representative of an agency that contributes substantially, in terms of scientific research capability and budget, to the Program.

(d) Support personnel

An Executive Secretary shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Committee, with the approval of the Committee. The Executive Secretary shall be a permanent employee of one of the agencies or departments represented on the Committee, and shall remain in the employ of such agency or department. The Chairman of the Council shall have the authority to make personnel decisions regarding any employees detailed to the Council for purposes of working on business of the Committee pursuant to section 6651 of title 42.

(e) Functions relative to global change

The Council, through the Committee, shall be responsible for planning and coordinating the Program. In carrying out this responsibility, the Committee shall—

- (1) serve as the forum for developing the Plan and for overseeing its implementation;
- (2) improve cooperation among Federal agencies and departments with respect to global change research activities;
- (3) provide budgetary advice as specified in section 2935 of this title;
- (4) work with academic, State, industry, and other groups conducting global change re-

¹ So in original. Probably should be "relevant".