Climate Central’s partnership-based approach to journalism

About Climate Central
Climate Central is a national group based in New Jersey where researchers, science communicators and journalists work together to investigate and explain climate change impacts and solutions. We’re a non-advocacy nonprofit where projects are guided by data and science.

About journalism at Climate Central
Our journalists collaborate with news outlets nationwide to produce compelling and scientifically accurate feature stories guided and informed by new science and analyses, including Climate Central’s own research. We work with print, digital, radio and television partners. We prioritize working with local and regional outlets. Our editorial independence policy is posted online.

Examples of our partnership stories
Radio: WJCT (Jacksonville), KQED (San Francisco Bay Area), EarthFix (Pacific Northwest).
TV: WVLT (Knoxville), PBS NewsHour

How it works
A partner outlet contributes local reporting, including field reporting, photography and some editing for a story. We contribute data and charts plus a science reporter and an editor. For a text story, we help craft a feature in a way that puts climate change in appropriate and accurate context. For broadcast media, we provide story and interview suggestions and help develop and review scripts. Climate Central’s researchers assist with fact-checking. We aim to co-publish stories at around the same time related research is released. We generally publish several stories from different regions simultaneously.

Our guidelines
Characters
We don’t produce stories ‘about’ science or ‘about’ new findings. All of our stories are about people, how they’re being affected by climate change, and how they’re responding to it.

Context
Environmental changes are caused by many factors, among them global climate change. In our coverage, we explain these factors, taking care to not overstate or understate climate change’s role. Our stories explain current and future risks as well as solutions.

Science
Climate change is poorly understood and often viewed as a political issue. Each of our stories includes a punchy explanation of the scientific fundamentals of climate change as they relate to the issues being covered.

Compromise
Our partners know their style and local communities, issues, leaders and characters better than we do. We defer to our partners on most final editorial decisions, but insist upon scientific accuracy and context. If we can’t reach agreement on the science in a story, we agree in advance that we will halt the project.

Credit
We share bylines with print partners and ask broadcast partners to mention our partnership in their coverage.

Contact
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