



## Amplifiers at Climate Central

To help close the gap between scientific and public understanding of climate change, Climate Central produces multi-faceted projects using datasets dealing with climate change trends, impacts, and solutions on a highly localized basis. Some of the datasets are generated internally; others come from externally authored scientific papers, typically in conjunction with a paper's publication in peer-reviewed journals. Working closely with the authors, we use the data and new science to assist in the production of local news stories across multiple regions. There is no charge to the authors or their institutions and the work is explanatory, not promotional. Climate Central is a nonadvocacy organization.

We're looking for datasets and upcoming papers for our projects. If you're publishing or aware of an upcoming study dealing with climate change impacts or solutions anywhere in the U.S., please let your Climate Central contact know or email [jupton@climatecentral.org](mailto:jupton@climatecentral.org)—ideally shortly after or even before it's been submitted for peer review. We generally need at least two months to produce an amplifier project.

If the paper is a good candidate for a Climate Central collaboration and we move forward on an amplifier project, our analysts will work closely with you. Where scientifically appropriate and feasible, we'll analyze the underlying data to see if a more localized or granular presentation is possible. When you publish your work, we will amplify your findings by sharing downloadable data, charts, and additional information with the hundreds of journalists and meteorologists who participate in our programs, and by applying the findings to our journalistic collaborations with news outlets.

Ideal projects for amplifiers are those that produce granular and localizable data covering the U.S. or one of its regions. The kinds of amplifier projects we're looking for might reveal the different rates at which clean energy is being deployed in different parts of the country, for example. Or it might show how intensifying heat and storms are affecting public health. Or it may track and model increases in flooding over time.

Here's an example of an amplifier project that examined the use of prescribed burns, which can reduce wildfire risks in a warming climate. University of Idaho fire researcher Crystal Kolden published a [paper in the journal \*Fire\*](#), and—based on her data plus our own reporting, data analysis, and other research—Climate Central produced:

- A [research brief](#), which was sent along with the new paper under embargo to journalists and TV meteorologists in our networks. All of the [data was available for download](#)

## Amplifiers at Climate Central (continued)

- A partnership story about the findings [with a local newspaper](#) and [digital magazine Southerly](#) from Georgia, which the data showed is a national leader in the use of prescribed burns
- A [partnership story with the Sacramento Bee](#) in California, which the data showed is lagging in the use of prescribed burns
- A [partnership story with a group of newspapers](#) in New Jersey, where a large forest fire broke out in the spring in a densely populated region
- A [partnership story with Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) in Oregon, where the data showed a recent rise in the use of prescribed burns, which experts attribute to recent regulatory changes
- Our partners at [PBS NewsHour interviewed Kolden](#) about her findings and featured both our report and her paper when the interview was broadcast
- Radio stories in California [by KQED](#) and nationwide [by All Things Considered](#) cited our report
- We provided related analysis and production-ready graphics to 700 TV meteorologists and 230 journalists, generating extensive social media and local news coverage

Kolden’s work, amplified by Climate Central, was covered in more than 70 outlets, building public awareness of climate change links to wildfire activity and of an important tool to reduce risks. “This has been much more impactful than I imagined,” she told us.