

Climate Committee Report
2005 Spring Coordinating Committee, Key Largo, FL
Douglas G. Goodin, Committee Chair

The LTER Climate Committee is charged with overseeing climate data, observations, and records across the LTER network. In addition, members of the committee have organized cross-site research initiatives to address climate-related questions in ecological research. Members of the climate committee continue to consult with site PIs and data managers to insure that climate observation standards are uniform across the network, and that climate data are available in a format that facilitates cross-site application as well as being accessible to the entire ecological research community. Recently, members of the committee have been working to address methods for calculating evapotranspiration using the existing minimal climate data set. This is in response to requests from the user community for these data.

Members of the Climate Committee are also involved in a cross-site research initiative to study the effects of extreme climatic events on ecosystems. A two-day workshop was held in June, 2004 to outline the extreme events project and formulate a set of hypotheses and questions to guide the research. Based on this workshop, a preliminary analysis of extremes at a subset of terrestrial LTER sites is currently underway. Results of this analysis will be presented at the ASCE conference on global change and hydrology in Anchorage, AK, in May, 2005.