

Southeast Regional Climate Center
SRCC
THE COCORAHS 'STATE CLIMATES' SERIES

The Southeast Regional Climate Center

As we continue our "Climates of the Fifty States" series, we move to our fifth region of the country and look at the states of the Southeast Regional Climate Center.

The Southeast Regional Climate Center (SERCC) is one of six regional climate centers and, as part of NOAA's Regional Climate Center Program, serves as the hub for climate services, applications, research, and education in the Southeast. The SERCC provides climate service support and engages in research germane to the states and territories of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the American Virgin Islands. Originally established in 1989 at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources in Columbia, SC, the SERCC relocated to the Department of Geography at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the spring of 2007, and operations began in June of that year.

The SERCC provides a variety of climate services to meet sector-specific needs in the southeast region. These include climate data ingest, quality control, and product development via the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS); monitoring of regional climate patterns and their societal impacts in the context of climate variability and change; education and outreach support; and applied climate research. These services and activities are enhanced through regional support from and collaboration with a variety of entities, including a strong and active network of state climate offices, NOAA centers (including NCDC), RISAs, Sea Grant programs, and academic institutions, among others.

Currently, the SERCC is focusing its user-engagement and research activities in areas where there is a strong need for expertise in the use of climate information. Topically, these areas include public health, planning, tourism, and coastal conditions. A number of outreach activities and research projects are presently under various stages of development. These include collaborative research projects on the health impacts of heat waves and the spatial patterns of precipitation across the southeast. Additionally, the SERCC has initiated a research program, in collaboration with experts and professionals in other fields, to explore the socioeconomic and human health impacts of extreme weather events in the southeast. The ultimate goal of this research program is to provide extended-range weather and climate forecasts that are tailored to specific user groups. These forecasts would provide valuable climatological context and more specificity with respect to the character and probability of extreme events.

To find out more about the SERCC, visit: <http://www.sercc.com>