

The Wisconsin State Climatology Office (SCO) is seeking a Postdoctoral Research Associate with interest and expertise in extreme weather, climate change, and climate services. The position is available for 12 months with the potential for a 12-month extension depending on performance. Applicants with a master's degree may be considered if they possess a strong skill set that aligns with project objectives.

Position Description: The successful hire will support an existing project, "Preparing Wisconsin's rural communities for amplified weather extremes in a changing climate," as part of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's new Rural Partnerships Institute. The overall project goal is to improve climate resiliency in rural Wisconsin as communities manage extreme weather events. The project is interdisciplinary and involves collaborations with various campus units including Wisconet (Wisconsin Environmental Mesonet), the Division of Extension, the Nelson Institute Center for Climatic Research, and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. The successful candidate will contribute to the SCO's role in the project through research and stakeholder engagement to: (1) identify the types of extreme weather events of greatest concern to Wisconsin's rural communities, (2) investigate the behavior of relevant extreme weather variations and trends in Wisconsin, and (3) create applied research products for decision-makers to better prepare rural Wisconsin for impacts from the changing climate.

< <https://wss.cee.wisc.edu/research/preparing-wisconsins-rural-communities-for-amplified-weather-extremes-in-a-changing-climate/> >

Major Duties and Responsibilities: Process and analyze large datasets of extreme weather and climate trends in Wisconsin; participate in community stakeholder workshops involving representatives from agriculture, emergency management, and rural schools; and assist in developing products that help the state's rural communities understand and adapt to the changing climate. The specific research topics will depend on stakeholder input and the skills and interests of the hired candidate, but some extreme weather events expected to be addressed include:

- Increased prevalence of extreme precipitation events
- Greater hydrological variability (transitions between droughts and floods)
- Enhancement of extreme heat
- Extreme winter warmth leading to damaging "false springs"

Education Requirements: Applicants should hold a PhD at the time of appointment and possess expertise in climatology or a related field, preferably with additional experience and/or interest in climate services. Applicants with a master's degree may be considered if they have sufficient experience in climate data analysis and stakeholder engagement.

Knowledge Requirements: Strong skills in climate data processing, analysis and visualization; proficiency in Python, R, MATLAB or a related programming language; effective communication skills and a demonstrated ability to work well in a collaborative environment with non-scientists; a willingness to conduct applied research to benefit the overall project goals.

Please submit a cover letter, a short statement of your research interests, a curriculum vitae, and the names of two references to Dr. Steve Vavrus ([sjvavrus@wisc.edu](mailto:sjvavrus@wisc.edu)), Director of the Wisconsin State Climatology Office.

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