

Dear Paper and Poster Presenters at the AMS Annual Meeting:

As you may know, the theme of the 2017 AMS Annual Meeting is “Observations Lead the Way”. Even though there are several conferences, symposia and sessions dedicated to identifying the greatest observational needs in many disciplines within the weather, water and climate community, we want the advice of all presenters in the 42 conferences and symposia comprising this year’s Annual Meeting. The intent is to obtain a community consensus on what observations we need to advance our research, applications, products and services. This information, from hopefully you and 2000 other presenters, will be organized and summarized for the following purposes:

1. To write an article for the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* on our community’s consensus on the greatest observational needs across the Weather, Water and Climate enterprise.
2. To create a document using the same data that would be presented to the different Federal and State agencies that support environmental measurements, platforms and networks.
3. To create a similar document tailored for policy makers, especially for Congress and their staff, to give them the community consensus they are often looking for.

To help us in this effort, we are asking you to create one slide near the end of your talk or poster that includes:

1. Observations (or networks) that are needed to benefit your future research, application or product development
2. Recommended instruments that are needed to make these observations
3. Your view on the greatest observational needs for your discipline in general

If you have co-authors, please seek their opinions on these questions as well. We have signed up 100 student volunteers who will attend your session and help “harvest” and organize all of your recommendations in a form we can use for the aforementioned articles. I also encourage all poster presenters to upload an image of their poster to the [Presenter’s Corner](#).

I hope you decide to assist us in this very important effort to improve our nation’s observing capacity.

Thank you!

Fred Carr

President, American Meteorological Society