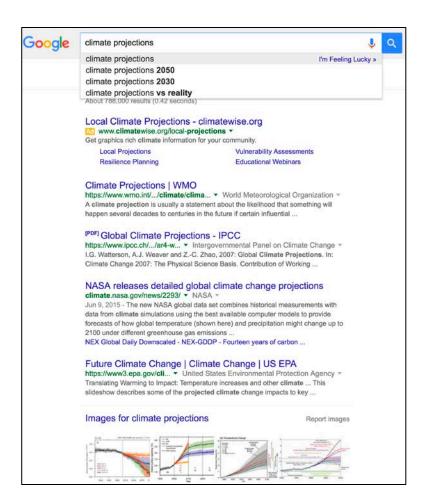
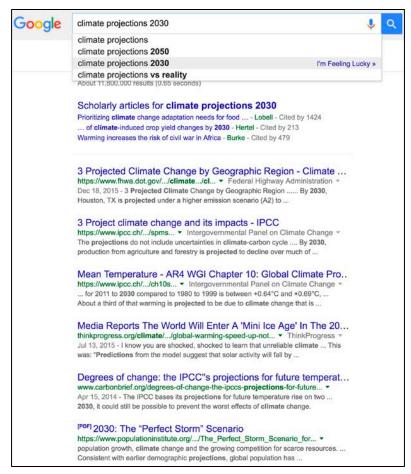


Climate Projections and Energy Security

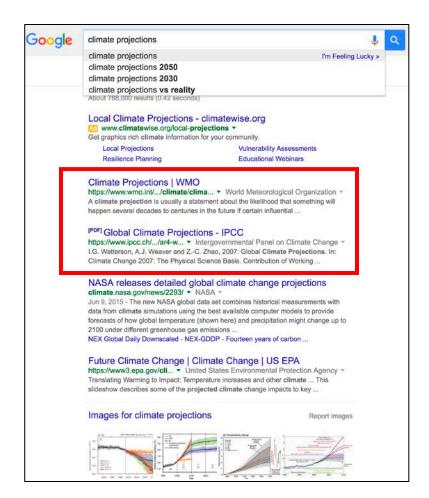
Andy Hoell and Jim Wilczak
Research Meteorologists, Physical Sciences Division

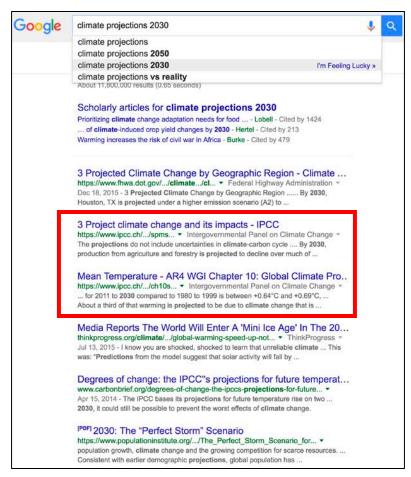


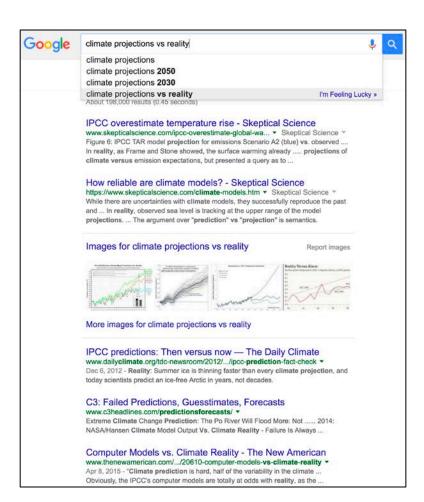




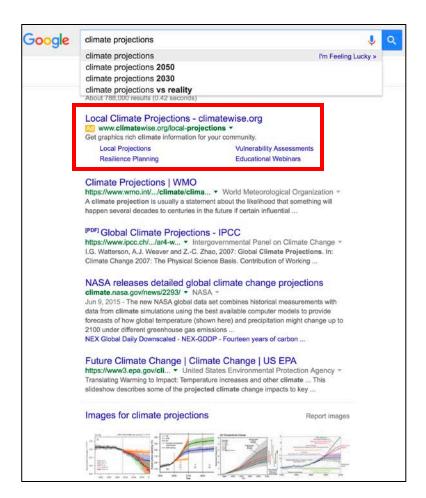
Reputable

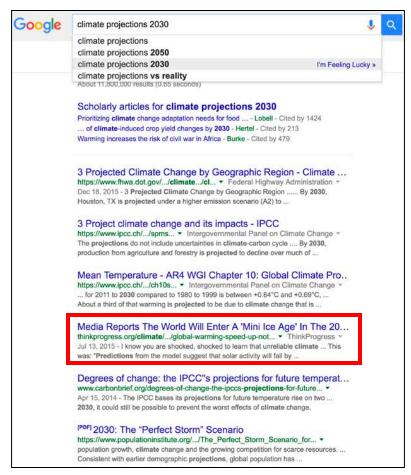


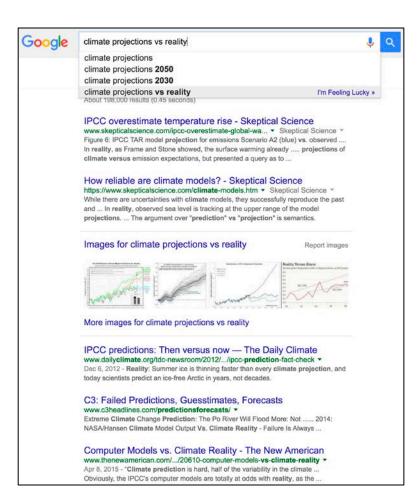




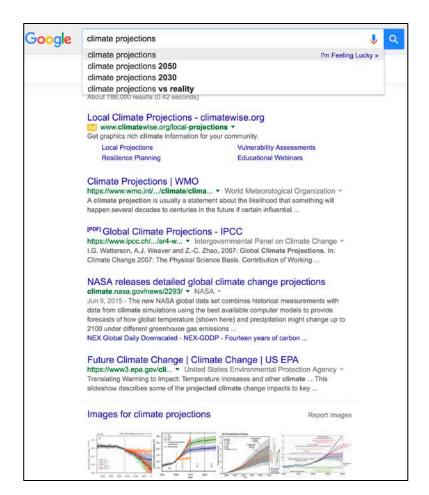
Sensational

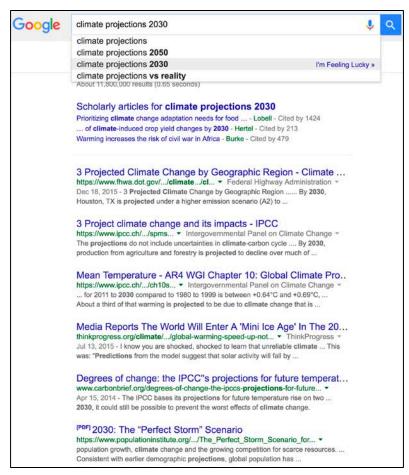


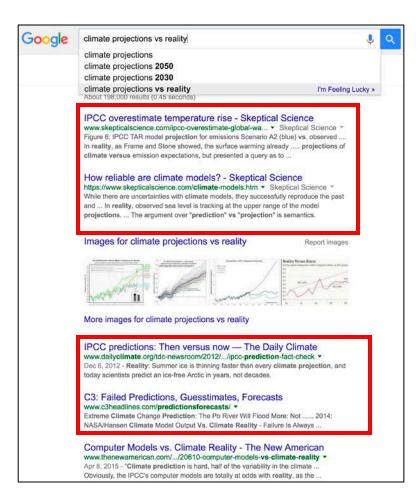




Skeptical

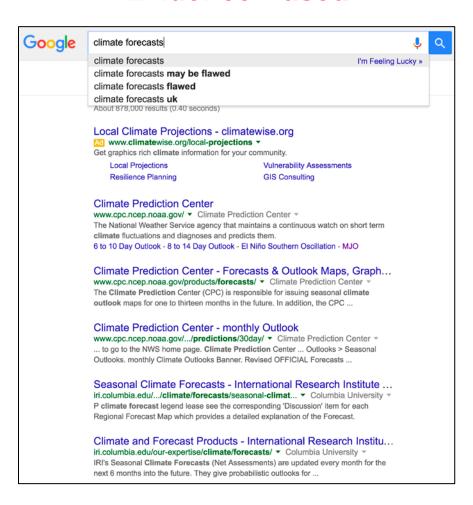




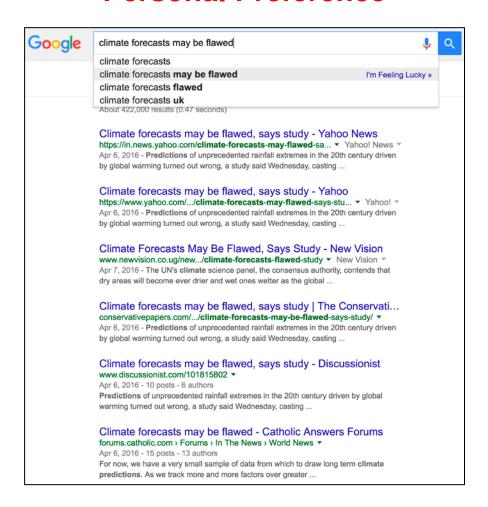


Everyone Has an Opinion

Evidence Based



Personal Preference



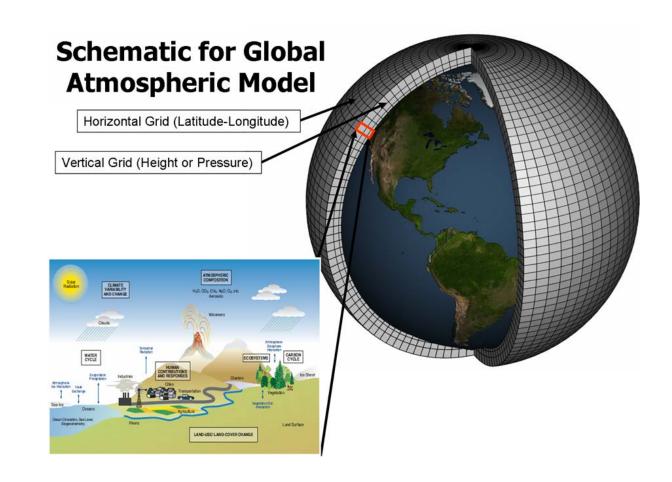
Outline

- Overview of Climate Models
- Seasonal Forecasts
- Climate Projections
- Application to Energy Security

Climate Models

How Climate Models Work

- Climate models replicate the physics of the climate system using equations that account for mass, momentum, energy
- Climate models separate the Earth and its atmosphere into finite areas and solve the equations in those finite areas
- Climate models can be used for seasonal forecasts and long-term projections

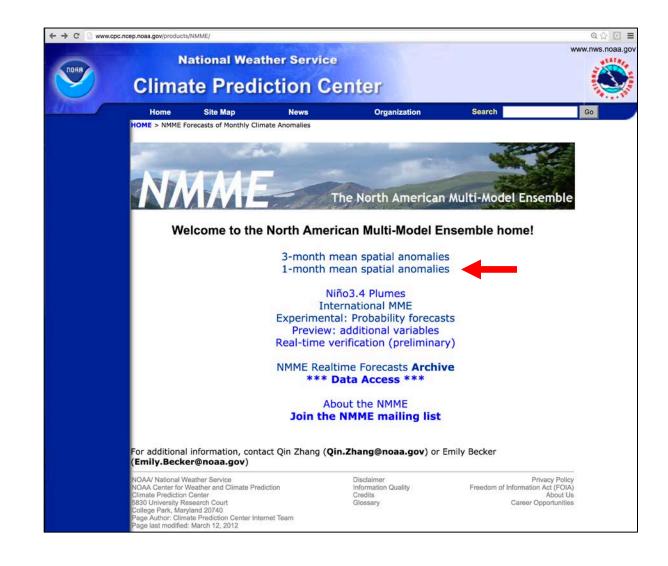


Seasonal Forecasts

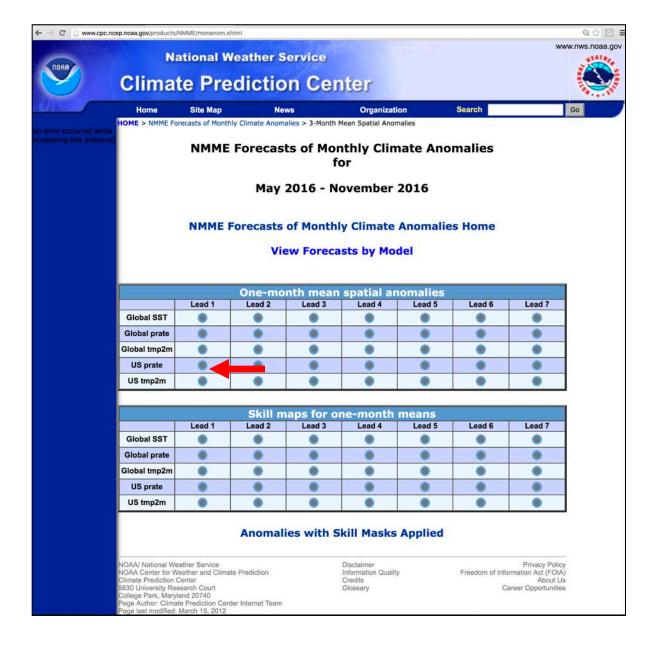
North American Multi-Model Ensemble

cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/NMME

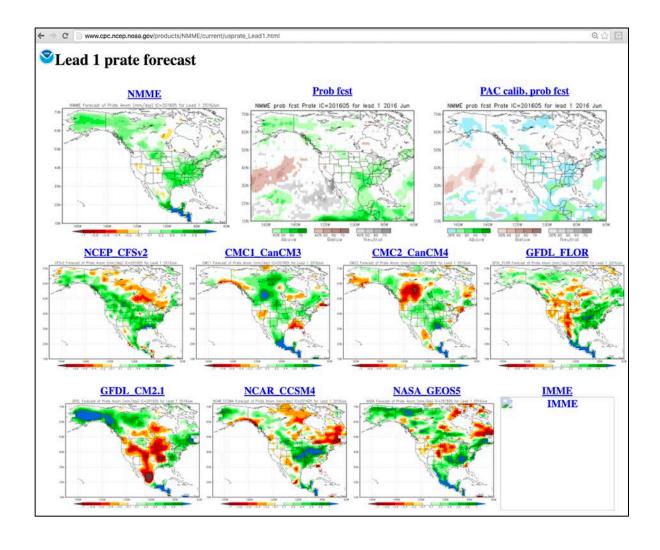
- Forecast system made up of 7 models
- Forecasts of monthly and seasonal surface temperature and precipitation



One Month Forecasts



Example: One Month Precipitation Forecasts



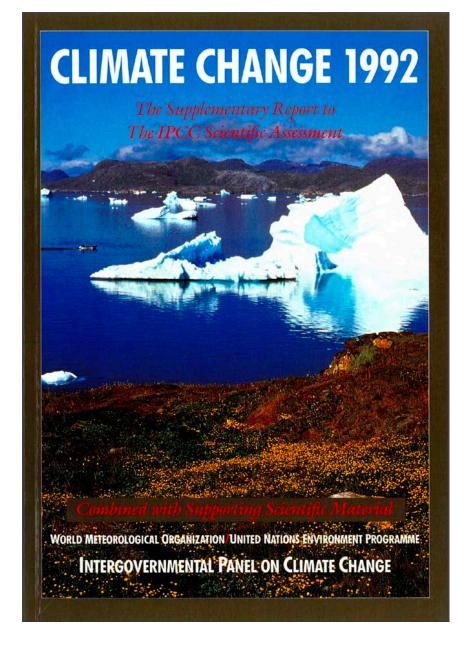
Climate Projections

IPCC First Assessment

2. Our Major Conclusions

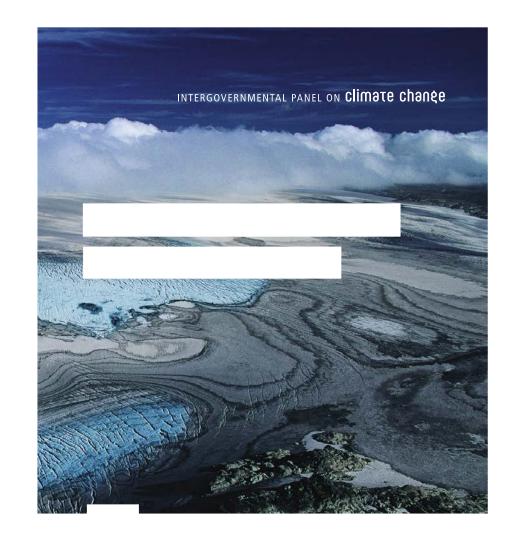
Findings of scientific research since 1990 do not affect our fundamental understanding of the science of the greenhouse effect and either confirm or do not justify alteration of the major conclusions of the first IPCC Scientific Assessment, in particular the following:

- emissions resulting from human activities are substantially increasing the atmospheric concentrations of the greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide, methane, chlorofluorocarbons, and nitrous oxide;
- the evidence from the modelling studies, from observations and the sensitivity analyses indicate that the sensitivity of global mean surface temperature to doubling CO₂ is unlikely to lie outside the range 1.5 to 4.5°C;
- there are many uncertainties in our predictions particularly with regard to the timing, magnitude and regional patterns of climate change;



IPCC Fifth Assessment

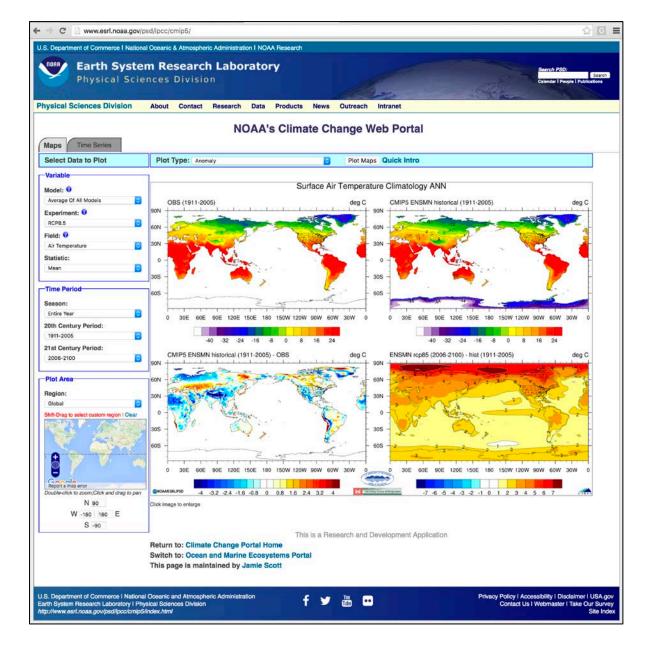
- On regional scales, the confidence in model capability to simulate surface temperature is less than for the larger scales. However, there is high confidence that regional-scale surface temperature is better simulated than at the time of the AR4. {9.4, 9.6}
- There has been some improvement in the simulation of continental-scale patterns of precipitation since the AR4. At regional scales, precipitation is not simulated as well, and the assessment is hampered by observational uncertainties. {9.4, 9.6}



Climate Projections

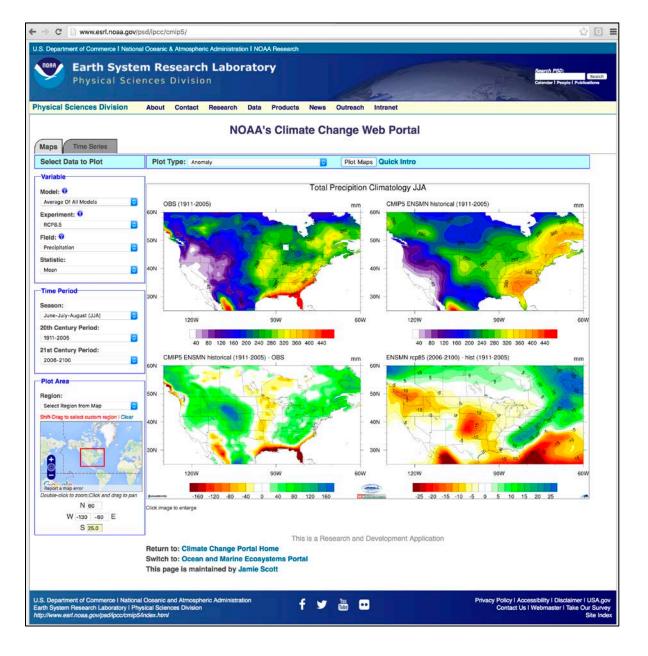
esrl.noaa.gov/psd/ipcc/cmip5

- Variables
 - Precipitation & Temperature
- 37 Models
- Scenarios
 - RCP8.5 & RCP4.5
- All 3-month Seasons
- Maps for Customizable Regions
- Regional Time Series



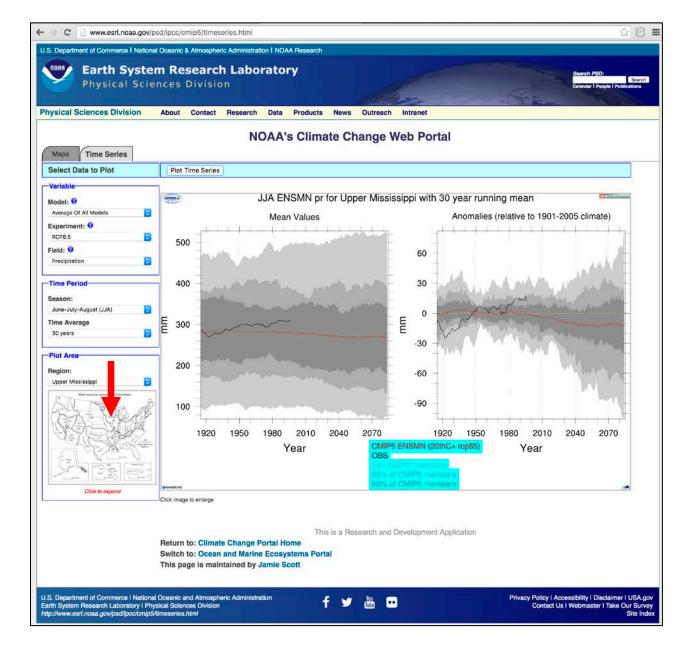
Example: North America Projections

- June-August Precipitation
- Precipitation in CMIP5 models over North America are biased
- CMIP5 models project strong regional precipitation changes over the regions in which precipitation is biased



Example: Regional Precipitation

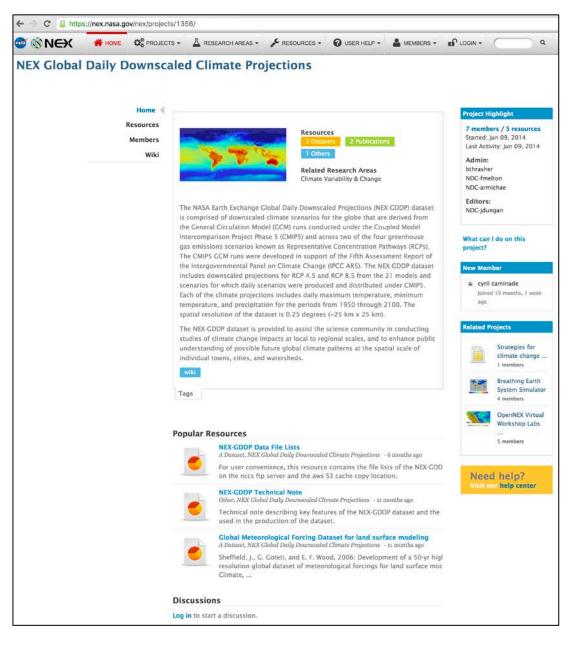
- June-August Upper MS Basin
- The ensemble mean of CMIP5 models do not capture the observed precipitation trends
- The ensemble precipitation spread of CMIP5 models is large compared to the change in the mean
- These precipitation projections must be used with caution



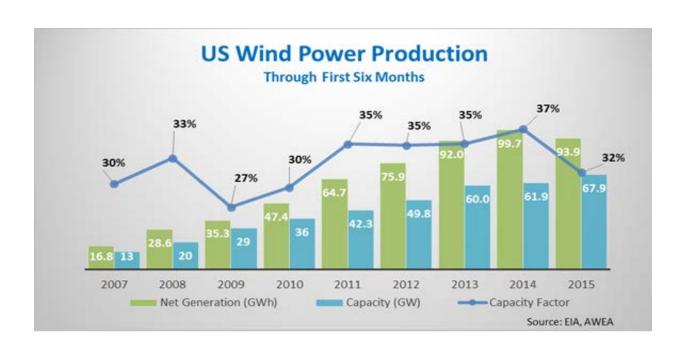
Downscaled Climate Projections

nex.nasa.gov/nex/projects/1356

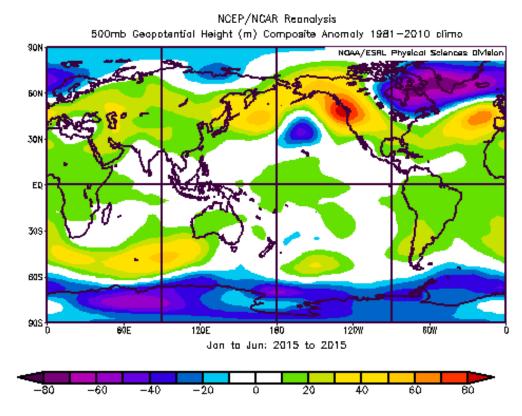
To what degree should downscaled projections be used for decision making purposes?



Application: Climate Information for the Future Energy System



Wind energy production in The effect was strongest first half of 2015 was less in western U.S., where a than in first half of 2014, persistent high pressure ridge was present for long despite more capacity periods of time.



As greater amounts of weather-dependent renewable energy are developed in North America, there will be an increasing need to forecast annual variations not only in precipitation and temperature, but also for wind and solar resources.

being added.