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March 1, 2018

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## **Climate Central Celebrates 10-Year Mark with New Appointments Announces New Board Members, Chief Scientist**

Princeton, N.J. — [Climate Central](#) welcomes Kathryn Murdoch and James. L. Bildner to its 11-member Board of Directors. [Murdoch](#) is the co-founder and president of the [Quadrivium Foundation](#), a trustee of the Environmental Defense Fund and a former director for the Clinton Climate Initiative. [Bildner](#) is the chief executive officer of the [Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation](#), an adjunct lecturer at the Harvard Kennedy School and a trustee of the Kresge Foundation. Their new terms begin immediately.

"We are thrilled with these appointments," said board chair Steve Pacala. "Kathryn and Jim each bring with them deep professional backgrounds and a passion for solving complex societal issues. As Climate Central marks its 10th year, we are eager to have Kathryn and Jim help us chart a new direction for the next decade of education, communication and action on climate change."

Climate Central also announced the appointment of Ben Strauss to the role of chief scientist. [Strauss](#) is the architect of Climate Central's acclaimed [Surging Seas](#) program; he's a recognized national expert on sea level rise and the author of numerous papers on the subject. "I've been with Climate Central since its inception in 2008 and our mission has never been more important," said Strauss. "I look forward to working with all of our programs to produce accurate and powerful material on climate change and its impacts on each of our lives." Strauss succeeds Heidi Cullen, who joined the staff of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute on February 1. Cullen remains affiliated with Climate Central in the newly-created position of Chief Scientific Advisor, working closely with Strauss and Climate Central CEO Paul Hanle.

"We are focusing on the important work of responding to the growing demand for highly localized climate change information, the hallmarks of Climate Central," said Hanle. "As we move into our second decade, we are providing rigorous and compelling content to wider audiences — directly and through partners — helping those audiences discern the impacts of a warming world and to understand potential solutions. Ultimately, we aim to inspire action to stabilize the climate and prepare for the impacts of climate change."

Since 2011, Climate Central's Climate Matters has provided a network of local meteorologists with the data and graphics to help tell the story of the link between weather events and climate change. Now, with more than 500 participating meteorologists in most every U.S. market, the program is expanding its reach to include local journalists with its new NSF-funded Climate Matters in the Newsroom program. Surging Seas is advancing the local accuracy of global sea-level rise threat assessments, researching the intersection of social and physical vulnerability on U.S. coasts, and pioneering a new generation of online tools. Climate Central's work on attribution has analyzed and communicated the possible role of climate change in individual extreme weather events. Beginning this year, that work will move to focus on broad-scale assessments and on health and economic impacts of human-caused climate change.