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Climate Central Announces Appointment of Dr. Benjamin Strauss as President and CEO

Climate Central today announced the appointment of Dr. Benjamin Strauss as President and CEO, effective May 7, 2018. Strauss succeeds Dr. Paul Hanle, who is retiring from Climate Central after seven years. Strauss, a member of Climate Central's staff since its founding in 2008, has served the organization in multiple leadership roles including Vice President for Climate Impacts and, most recently, Chief Scientist. Strauss created and has directed Climate Central's acclaimed program on sea-level rise since 2010.

"Ben Strauss is a visionary and creative thinker who has abundant expertise on climate science and climate communication as well as deep understanding of the organization's mission and values," said Dr. Stephen Pacala of Princeton University, Chair of Climate Central's Board of Directors. "His work on sea-level rise has received worldwide attention from the media and policymakers. Ben has a remarkable gift for identifying key climate information gaps meaningful to the public and decision-makers, finding or conducting the science needed to fill those gaps, and making the results available in useable and memorable form. As Ben transitions to his new role, the Board and I would like to thank Paul for his many and successful years at the helm of Climate Central."

"I am honored that the Board has asked me to lead this unique organization into its second decade," said Strauss. "Climate Central will continue its mission of providing the public and decision-makers with clear and powerful information based on rigorous analysis. I also look forward to working with the Board and staff of Climate Central, and with others in and beyond the climate community, to identify additional opportunities to bring to bear Climate Central's unique characteristics, particularly its expertise in providing localized and actionable climate change information where it is needed most."

Strauss noted that under his leadership, the Princeton, NJ-based organization will continue and expand its principal programs on sea-level rise, climate-weather linkages, and media outreach, and will remain a non-partisan, non-advocacy organization.

Strauss has authored numerous scientific papers and reports on sea-level rise and is the architect of the Surging Seas suite of maps, tools and visualizations. Strauss has testified before the U.S. Senate and presented to federal, state and local elected officials. His research and Surging Seas have been covered by national and international publications, such as the New York Times, Washington Post, AP, Reuters, Bloomberg, The Guardian and USA Today, leading to appearances in more than 10,000 stories. He has appeared as an expert on national network

news, nationally syndicated radio and documentary television. He holds a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Princeton University, an M.S. in Zoology from the University of Washington and a B.A. in Biology from Yale University.

“Through Ben’s years as a member of Climate Central’s senior staff, he is familiar with work throughout the organization. The Board’s selection of Ben as my successor puts Climate Central in superbly well-qualified hands,” said Hanle.

About Climate Central

Climate Central’s mission is to communicate climate science, effects and solutions to the public and decision-makers. A non-partisan, non-advocacy organization, Climate Central does not take positions on specific policies or technologies.

Climate Central’s Climate Matters program provides a network of more than 500 local meteorologists with the data and graphics to help tell the story of the link between weather events and climate change; the program is now expanding its reach to include local journalists with its new NSF-funded Climate Matters in the Newsroom project. The organization’s work on sea-level rise 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 specific individual extreme-weather events. That work is now shifting to focus on broader-scale assessments of climate-weather linkages and on health and economic impacts of human-caused climate change.

Climate Central’s highly interdisciplinary work is conducted by a team whose backgrounds include natural and social sciences, data analysis, journalism, graphic design, web production and other fields.