

**Memorandum:  
Supporting and Sustaining the Oklahoma Mesonet**

To: Oklahoma Researchers Using Oklahoma Mesonet Data

From: Oklahoma Mesonet Steering Committee

Date: August 17, 2011

The Oklahoma Mesonet is a jointly owned environmental monitoring network of the University of Oklahoma (OU) and Oklahoma State University (OSU), operated from the Oklahoma Climatological Survey. [Mesonet](#) measures weather and soil conditions at 120 surface stations across Oklahoma. This world-class network has operated since 1994 and now has archived over 4 billion quality-assured observations.

There are substantial costs associated with our commitment to high quality and service. We try to cover these costs within the Mesonet budget so that you do not have to bear expenses associated with sensor calibration and maintenance, data quality assurance, data management and archiving, etc. However, since fiscal year 2003, State funding for the Mesonet has decreased by almost 15% while demand for our data, products, and services has more than quadrupled.

Based on our state support, the Mesonet Steering Committee's current policy is that data fees are waived for research and academic users inside the State of Oklahoma. We are pleased to do this as a means of supporting Oklahoma's research community and encouraging expanded use and application of this unparalleled data set. In return, we ask that, whenever possible, you voluntarily include Mesonet data fees and/or services in your budgets for projects that will use Mesonet data. Please contact our office via the [data request email](#) or 405-325-2541 to discuss an appropriate amount for data costs based on the type and amount of data that you require. The Mesonet's approved fee schedule can serve as a starting point for those discussions.

It is our preference to freely share our data with the research community, but even with judicious use of our resources, we must rely on data fees to help us balance the budget. We trust that you recognize the high value of Mesonet data and will agree to include our relatively inexpensive fees for Oklahoma Mesonet data in your research projects.

Thank you, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.