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## Group putting out message

The North Dakota Climate Solutions Partnership has a message it wants to get out and it enlisted 20 scientists from around North Dakota to make its point. The statement of principles the scientist have signed includes statements that the earth is getting warmer and there is a strong consensus of scientists that human activity is a significant factor in the current climate change.

By: [Keith Norman](#), The Jamestown Sun

The North Dakota Climate Solutions Partnership has a message it wants to get out and it enlisted 20 scientists from around North Dakota to make its point.

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"We organized principally to reflect the consensus of the scientific community," said Andrei Kirilenko, who holds a doctorate in the computer field and is an associate professor of earth system science and policy at the University of North Dakota. "We looked at a number of surveys and found the view of the general public is different than the view of the scientific community."

Other members of the scientific community agreed.

"That is a very significant point," said John Brauner, who has a doctorate in biology and heads of the biology department at Jamestown College. "At times science does the work and reveals their findings and the public is resistant."

In all 20 scientists from around North Dakota signed the statement of principles concerning climate change.

"To have nearly two dozen scientists from around a small state like North Dakota is pretty good," said Jason Schafer of the National Wildlife Federation. "We didn't just take people with a Ph.D., we looked for people who were actually working on climate issues."

Schafer said the NWF has an interest in climate change because of the effects it might have on wildlife habitat.

Among the consequences of climate change listed by the statement of principles is more frequent and severe heat waves and droughts that would stress waterfowl production in the prairie pothole region.

"The prairie pothole region is the duck factory of the continent," Schafer said. "It has an immense economic impact on the area."

The scientists also believe climate change will affect agriculture.

One of the listed consequences of climate change in the Great Plains is greater pressure on crop yields due to rising temperatures and more extreme weather events.

With the backing of the scientific community the NDCSP can look toward its next step.

"Outreach is what we're working towards," Schafer said. "The first task has been a statement of principles; we're not sure what the next step will be."

Others see the group role as presenting North Dakota's position in climate discussion.

"We want to make sure North Dakota is at the table in the new greening economy," said Mindi Grieve, government relations specialist for the Environmental Law and Policy Center. "We want to use the resource of the NDCSP scientific advisory group to gather information and tell the scientists side of the story."

The North Dakota Climate Solutions Partnership was formed by the Environmental Law and Policy Center, Ducks Unlimited, Prairie Climate Stewardship Network, North Dakota Farmers Union, National Wildlife Federation, Pew Environment Group and the Foundation for Agricultural and Rural Resources Management and Sustainability.

The organization's Web site is [ndclimatesolutions.org](http://ndclimatesolutions.org).

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