02/08/2024

NYS Mesonet
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NYS Mesonet Data Access Policy & Pricing

The New York State Mesonet is comprised of a base network of 126 weather stations deployed across the state, with at least one station operating in every county. Each standard station measures temperature, humidity, precipitation, wind speed and direction, pressure, solar radiation, snow depth, and soil information. In addition, site cameras collect photos for enhanced situational awareness. Networks of non-standard (ancillary) stations provide supplementary atmospheric data including vertical profile (17 stations), flux (18 stations) and snow water content information (20 stations). The mission of the NYS Mesonet is to sustain a world-class, gold-standard environmental monitoring network by delivering high-quality observations and timely value-added products to support state decision makers, to enhance public safety and education, and to stimulate advances in resource management, agriculture, industry, and research.

Atmospheric scientists and engineers at the University at Albany and The Research Foundation for The State University of New York (RFSUNY) designed, constructed, and deployed the NYS Mesonet with initial funding provided by the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES), through a federal grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This Data Policy provides the means to raise revenues from external grants, contracts, and data licensing fees to sustain continued NYS Mesonet operations and maintenance.

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Description of Data

The quality-controlled data from the standard instrumentation at the 126 “standard” stations will be referred to in this document as “Standard Data.” “Supplemental Data” refers to quality-controlled observations from the specialized (non-standard) networks of stations that measure snow, flux, and vertical profiles. Both Standard Data and Supplemental Data can be provided in “Real-Time” (or “live”) that is continuously streamed to a recipient as it is generated, or as “Archived” data for particular time periods in the past. Data are available every 5 minutes (i.e., 12 data points per hour), hourly, daily, or at higher rates from some Supplemental data. Some value-added data, such as daily summaries (e.g., temperature high, low, average; precipitation level; etc.) may also be made available. Data are available from one or more individual stations, or from the entire “Standard Network” or “Supplemental Network.” Throughout this document, “NYS Mesonet Data” is used to refer to any form of the quality-controlled weather data described above.

All NYS Mesonet Data products are copyrighted by RFSUNY. RFSUNY will provide third parties access to NYS Mesonet Data under non-exclusive, non-transferable, revocable licenses for specified purposes. The following principles and guidelines will govern access to NYS Mesonet Data.

No redistribution of NYS Mesonet Data is allowed without the express prior written consent of RFSUNY. The penalty for unauthorized redistribution will be termination of further access to NYS Mesonet Data in addition to such other remedies as may be available at law or in equity.

All requests for archived data are submitted online at: https://nysmesonet.org/weather/requestdata
Access to real-time data, or additional information, may be requested by emailing: mesonet@albany.edu

NYS Mesonet Data Pricing:

The data fee is listed in the table below. For Real-Time feeds, a one-time setup fee of $200 will be applied. For large data request outside of the online data request process or special requests requiring extra support, the labor cost of $300/hr will be applied. Fees[1] are subject to change without notice.

Standard (126), Snow (20) or Flux (18) Networks

	Per Station[1] (Archived or Real-Time[2])			**Per Network (Standard)**			**Per Network (Snow or Flux)**		
	Per day	*Per month*	*Per year*	*Per day*	*Per month*	*Per year*	*Per day*	*Per month*	*Per year*
Daily	$1	$25	$250	$25	$625	$6250	$10	$250	$2,500
Hourly	$5	$125	$1,250	$125	$3,125	$31,250	$50	$1,250	$12,500
5-minutes	$10	$250	$2,500	$250	$6,250	$62,500[3]	$100	$2,500	$25,000[3]

Profiler (17) Network

	Archived			**Real-Time[2]**	
	Per day	*Per month*	*Per year*	*Per month*	*Per year*
Per Station[1]	$ 20	$ 500	$ 5,000	$ 500	$ 5,000
Per Network	$ 200	$ 5,000	$ 50,000[3]	$ 5,000	$ 50,000

1. Fees for multiple stations will be prorated according to the number of stations requested, up to the whole-network fees.
2. For Real-Time feeds, a one-time setup fee of $200 will be assessed regardless of whether the data access fee is waived or not.
3. Maximum cost would be $100,000

Category 1: Personal Use (Non-Commercial)

- **Web Site**: Some NYS Mesonet data, maps, and products are available on the web in real-time and can be viewed for free and are not intended for downloading: https://nysmesonet.org

- The data charges are waived for access to archived data for non-commercial applications from individuals who are not affiliated with an organization covered by another Category, to the extent that time and resources permit.

Category 2: Commercial Applications (uses)

- Data requests for commercial applications are charged according to the pricing rates listed above. In addition, an additional data handling fee may be assessed for data tailored to special needs.

- "Commercial" is considered any private entity not supported wholly by public financing. This includes, but is not limited to, private sector businesses, state Authorities, and non-profit organizations.

Category 3: Government Agencies

- Government agencies include federal government, and State and Local Public Agencies.

- NYS Mesonet data access by government agencies will be determined based on applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations, and agreements.

- All entities planning to utilize NYS Mesonet data are encouraged to contact the NYS Mesonet/University at Albany for details regarding project collaboration, research, product development, and consultation. Quasi-government organizations such as public authorities and commercial contractors working for local and state governments are subject to the commercial rates for data access.

Category 4: Weather Station Hosts

- The data access fee is waived for all hosts of NYS Mesonet weather stations for access to data collected at their stations. NYS Mesonet Data from other stations are available on the same terms (including cost and the nature of the rights granted) offered to other individuals or organizations of their User Categories.

Category 5: Pedagogy (K-12, College, University)

- The data access fee is waived for all educational entities (K-12, college/university; public, private, and home school) for classroom instruction. Users must register with the NYS Mesonet for access.

Category 6: Academic Research

- The data access fee is waived for all educational institutions who wish to use NYSM data for exploration research. All researchers planning to utilize NYS Mesonet data are encouraged to contact the NYS Mesonet/University at Albany for details regarding project collaboration, research, product development, and consultation.

- All researchers planning to use NYS Mesonet data within a proposal are required to include at least $5000/year data cost in the proposal and contact the NYS Mesonet program manager (June Wang jwang20@albany.edu) for additional cost if extra staff support is required for the proposed work, such as the technicians' time for field campaigns.

- All papers published using Mesonet data should reference Brotzge et al. (2020) and must include the NYS Mesonet acknowledgment statement below. Co-authorship with Mesonet personnel is highly encouraged to ensure the most accurate use of the data, although this is not a requirement. Researchers using Mesonet data must agree to the Data Policy and Terms of Use.

  Brotzge, J.A., Wang, J., Thorncroft, C.D., Joseph, E., Bain, N., Bassill, N., Farruggio, N., Freedman, J.M., Jr, K.H., Johnston, D. and Kane, E., 2020. A Technical Overview of the New York State Mesonet Standard Network. Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology, 37(10), pp.1827-1845.

- Acknowledgement Statement

  This research is made possible by the New York State (NYS) Mesonet. Original funding for the NYS Mesonet (NYSM) buildup was provided by Federal Emergency Management Agency grant FEMA-4085-DR-NY. The

continued operation and maintenance of the NYSM is supported by National Mesonet Program, University at Albany, Federal and private grants, and others.

Category 7: Media

- **Television**: Data fees for access to NYS Mesonet Data are waived provided the NYS Mesonet logo is displayed and verbal mention of "The New York State Mesonet at the University at Albany" is acknowledged.

- **Newspapers**: Data fees for archived NYS Mesonet Data are waived provided the NYS Mesonet logo and link to https://nysmesonet.org are included.

- **Radio:** NYS Mesonet Data fees for archived NYS Mesonet Data are waived provided the following acknowledgment is read on air: "Weather data are provided by the New York State Mesonet at the University at Albany".

- **Web/Internet/Social Media:** Data, information and/or maps displayed on the New York State Mesonet website may be republished with *a priori* approval from the NYS Mesonet/University at Albany. In addition, the NYS Mesonet logo must be displayed with all NYS Mesonet maps, and a link to https://nysmesonet.org must be included.

Additional notes:

- A non-disclosure agreement (NDA) will be requested for all real-time feed requests and for large data purchases made outside of the online data request process. ***No redistribution of NYS Mesonet Data is allowed without the express prior written consent of RFSUNY. The penalty for unauthorized redistribution will be termination of further access to NYS Mesonet Data in addition to such other remedies as may be available at law or in equity.***