

# NYS Mesonet Data Access Policy

The New York State Mesonet is a network of 126 weather stations across the state, with at least one station in every county. Each standard station measures temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, pressure, radiation, and soil information. Special subsets of enhanced stations provide additional atmospheric data in the vertical (up to at least 2 miles above ground, 17 stations), flux (the amount of heat and moisture exchange near the ground, 17 stations) and snow depth information (20 stations). The mission of the NYS Mesonet is to operate a world-class environmental monitoring network, to deliver 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. This network will enable collection of new types of data (e.g., real-time soil moisture, vertical profiles of temperature, wind and humidity) as well as more granular weather data, to be made available to NYS and the Federal Government for the purpose of emergency preparedness through improved weather forecasting which will, in turn increase protection of life and property in New York and surrounding states.

The design and construction of the NYS Mesonet was performed by the University at Albany and The Research Foundation for The State University of New York (RFSUNY) with 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 access guidance provides the means to raise revenues from external grants, contracts, and data licensing fees to sustain and operate the NYS Mesonet.

## Description of Data

Data directly from the various sensors at the weather stations are electrical signals that must be converted by a data logger into weather variable measurements (e.g., temperature, pressure, wind speed). These measurement data are then quality-controlled before release. The quality-controlled data from the standard instrumentation at the 126 "standard" stations will be referred to in this document as "Standard Data." "Enhanced Data" refers to quality-controlled observation data from the specialized enhanced stations that measure snow, flux, and the vertical profilers. Both Standard Data and Enhanced Data can be provided as "Real-Time" (or "live") data that is continuously streamed to a recipient as it is generated, or as "Archived" data for particular time periods that is provided in a chart format. Data are available with intervals between data points of 15 minutes (i.e., 4 data points per hour) or 5 minutes (i.e., 12 data points per hour). Some users may be interested only in daily summaries (e.g., temperature high, low, average; precipitation level; etc.) A user may be interested in data from one or a few specific stations, or from the entire "Standard Network" or "Enhanced 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.*

## Category 1: Public Agencies

- **New York State:** New York State retains a royalty-free, non-exclusive, and irrevocable license to receive, reproduce, publish or otherwise use, and to authorize NYS local governmental agencies to use, the NYS Mesonet Data solely for NYS governmental purposes as defined by the respective agency's statutory mission. At the request of NYS DHSES, not-for-profit emergency service providers (for example, American Red Cross) will be provided data solely for emergency management purposes as determined by DHSES. For the purposes of NYS Mesonet Data access, "governmental agencies" does not include the State University of New York, the City University of New York, or quasi-governmental organizations such as public authorities.
- **State and Local Public Agencies outside NY:** Fees are the same as for Category 6 below.
- **Federal Government:** NYS Mesonet Data access by the federal government will be determined based on applicable federal laws, regulations, and agreements.

## Category 2: Media Users

- **Television:** Television stations may upon request receive NYS Mesonet Data (Real-Time and/or Archived) under non-exclusive, non-transferable, revocable licenses. Rates are dependent on market size:
  - TV stations in the NYC statistical area: \$1,000 monthly per Mesonet station;
  - TV stations in the Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester, or Albany statistical areas : \$600 monthly per Mesonet station;
  - TV stations in smaller markets: \$300 monthly per Mesonet station.
- **Newspapers:** Data fees for archived NYS Mesonet Data will be waived provided the NYS Mesonet logo and link to <http://www.nysmesonet.org> are included. Otherwise the fee schedule for Category 6 applies.
- **Radio:** NYS Mesonet Data fees for Archived Data will be waived provided the following acknowledgment is read on air: "Weather data are provided by the New York State Mesonet at the University at Albany, a network of 126 weather stations across the state, built with financial support from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency." Otherwise the fee schedule for Category 6 applies.

## Category 3: Academic and Not for Profit Research Users

- **University at Albany:** Fees for NYS Mesonet Data for externally funded UAAlbany users and academic collaborators will be determined in accordance with applicable federal regulations.
- **Other Academic and Not for Profit Research Institutions:** These institutions can choose between a fifty percent (50%) discount on the NYS Mesonet Data Fees for Category 6 and the Academic Annual Archived NYS Mesonet Data Access Fee (below) which would allow unlimited access to

Archived Data for all users on an individual campus or location for educational and non-commercial research use.

Academic Annual Archived Data Access Fee Schedule	
Standard Data	\$30,000
Enhanced Data	\$40,000
Standard Data + Enhanced Data	\$60,000

## Category 4: Weather Station Hosts

- Hosts of NYS Mesonet weather stations will have access to the NYS Mesonet Data collected at their stations at no cost. NYS Mesonet Data from other stations will be available on the same terms (including cost and the nature of the rights granted) offered to other individuals or organizations of their User Category.

## Category 5: Individuals

- **Web Site:** Real-Time NYS Mesonet Data can be viewed at the NYS Mesonet web site: <http://www.nysmesonet.org/mesonow>
- **Archived Data:** Specific requests for Archived Data for non-commercial purposes from individuals who are not affiliated with an organization in Categories 1 through 4 or 6 will be accommodated free of charge, to the extent that time and resources permit.

## Category 6: All Other Organizational Users

- The NYS Mesonet Data Fees below apply. In addition to the fees outlined below, a data handling fee may be assessed for data tailored to special needs.
- In addition to the fees outlined in the schedule below, if an organization sells product(s) and/or service(s) directly related to the NYS Mesonet Data, the organization will pay a negotiated royalty based on revenue from sales of those products and/or services that rely on NYS Mesonet Data.

## NYS Mesonet Data Fees

### STANDARD STATIONS

#### Standard Data from Individual Station

	Real-Time			Archived		
<i>Interval between data points</i>	<i>Per day</i>	<i>Per month</i>	<i>Per year</i>	<i>Per day</i>	<i>Per month</i>	<i>Per year</i>
Daily				\$ 1	\$25	\$ 300
Hourly	\$ 7	\$ 209	\$ 2,500	\$ 5	\$ 125	\$ 1,500
5-minutes	\$ 14	\$ 418	\$ 5,000	\$ 10	\$ 250	\$ 3,000

#### Standard Data from the Entire Standard Network of 126 Stations

	Real-Time			Archived		
<i>Interval between data points</i>	<i>Per day</i>	<i>Per month</i>	<i>Per year</i>	<i>Per day</i>	<i>Per month</i>	<i>Per year</i>
Daily				\$120	\$ 3,600	\$ 43,200
Hourly	\$ 660	\$ 20,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 400	\$ 12,000	\$ 144,000
5-minutes	\$ 1,320	\$ 40,000	\$ 480,000	\$ 800	\$ 24,000	\$ 288,000

### ENHANCED STATIONS

#### Enhanced Data from Individual Enhanced Station

	Real-Time			Archived		
<i>Interval between data points</i>	<i>Per day</i>	<i>Per month</i>	<i>Per year</i>	<i>Per day</i>	<i>Per month</i>	<i>Per year</i>
Hourly	\$ 55	\$ 1,700	\$ 20,000	\$ 33	\$ 1,000	\$ 12,000
5-minutes	\$ 110	\$ 3,400	\$ 40,000	\$ 66	\$ 2,000	\$ 24,000

*Enhanced Data from Entire Enhanced Network of 17 Stations*

<i>Interval between data points</i>	<b>Real-Time</b>			<b>Archived</b>		
	<i>Per day</i>	<i>Per month</i>	<i>Per year</i>	<i>Per day</i>	<i>Per month</i>	<i>Per year</i>
Hourly	\$ 715	\$ 22,000	\$ 260,000	\$ 430	\$ 13,000	\$ 156,000
5-minutes	\$ 1,430	\$ 44,000	\$ 520,000	\$ 860	\$ 26,000	\$ 312,000

Fees for multiple stations will be prorated according to the number of stations requested, up to the whole-network fees.

For a given station, all weather variables measured at that station will be included in the data provided; fees will not be prorated on a per-variable basis.

NYS Mesonet Data from the whole network (both Standard and Enhanced) that is three (3) years old or older will be available at 5-minute intervals at a discount of 50%. For instance, on January 1, 2021, NYS Mesonet Data from December 31, 2017 and prior will be eligible for this discounted rate.

***Without express prior written consent from RFSUNY, redistribution of NYS Mesonet Data is strictly prohibited.***

A non-commercial organization that does not fall into one of the User Categories above should contact NYS Mesonet to discuss their status and intended use of NYS Mesonet Data.

Fees are subject to change without notice.