

Science On a Sphere



[Science On a Sphere \(SOS\)®](#) is a unique and captivating visualization tool, invented by Dr. Alexander MacDonald, director of the NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory in the mid 1990s. Science On a Sphere® is a room-sized, global display system that uses computers and video projectors to display planetary data onto a six-foot diameter sphere, like a giant animated globe.

Researchers at NOAA developed Science On a Sphere® as an educational tool to help illustrate Earth System science to people of all ages. Animated images of atmospheric storms, climate change, and ocean temperature can be shown on the sphere, which is used to explain what are sometimes complex environmental processes, in a way that is both intuitive and captivating. You can find most of the datasets online and view them on your computer at home.