

Noel Cressie and NASA's OCO-2 in the news

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[NASA: Orbiting Carbon Observatory-2 Lifts Off!](#)

Engineers have successfully established communication with the Orbiting Carbon Observatory-2.

[ABC Radio National Drive: NASA Satellite to search for climate change clues](#)

NASA has launched its first satellite to measure carbon dioxide. It's hoped Orbiting Carbon Observatory-2 (OCO-2) will tell us whether the Earth's ability to absorb CO₂ is changing.

We spoke to an Australian statistician who is helping to analyse the data collected by the satellite.

[Sydney Morning Herald: NASA mission to map carbon dioxide from space](#)

Noel Cressie, a University of Wollongong statistician involved with the mission, said while scientists knew the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere – it tipped 400 parts per million at an observatory in Hawaii earlier this year, the highest in human history – they did not know precisely where it was coming from or going to.

Measurements from the satellite, combined with similar data taken from a network of ground stations on earth including one in Wollongong, will fill significant gaps in scientists' understanding of the global carbon cycle, Professor Cressie said.

[Illawarra Mercury: UOW's eyes on the ground for NASA carbon mission](#)

When a NASA rocket blasted off from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on Wednesday carrying a groundbreaking carbon dioxide monitoring observatory, two University of Wollongong scientists were playing a vital role in the mission.

[Kennedy Space Center's official pictures](#)

[Video of the launch](#)

[Video of the spacecraft separation](#)

[More photos of the launch](#)



United Launch Alliance Delta II rocket carrying NASA's Orbiting Carbon Observatory-2