

Orbiting Carbon Observatories (OCO) Program

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Orbiting Carbon Observatories (OCO) Program Latest News

Recently, the Trump administration asked to shut down NASA's Orbiting Carbon Observatories (OCO) program.

About Orbiting Carbon Observatories (OCO) Program

- OCOs are a series of dedicated **Earth remote sensing satellites** that were designed specifically to observe atmospheric CO₂ from space in order to better **understand the characteristics of climate change**.

Timeline of Observatories

- The first mission of the series failed soon after launch in February 2009.
- A replacement **satellite, OCO-2**, was launched in July 2014. It was built based on the original OCO mission to minimise cost, schedule, and performance impacts.
- **In 2019, a third mission, OCO-3**, was sent to the International Space Station (ISS) to further enhance the observation of atmospheric CO₂.

Importance of Orbiting Carbon Observatories

- NASA and other agencies have used the **data to create high-resolution maps of plant growth** around the world.
- That's useful to farmers, useful to **rangeland and grazing and drought monitoring** and forest mapping and all kinds of things, in addition to the CO2 measurements.
- The data have been used by the US **Department of Agriculture and many private agricultural** consulting companies to forecast and track crop yields and drought conditions.

Source: IE

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/orbiting-carbon-observatories-oco-program/>

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