

USING THE CHAT

- ▶ **Q: Question**
- ▶ **C: Comment**
- ▶ **T: Technical Problem**
- ▶ **S: Prefer Spanish Breakout Room**

POLL

WHAT'S YOUR
AFFILIATION?

R2 Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plan Overview

6/13/22

Outline

Background on EPA's Adaptation Efforts

Schedule for Completing R2 Adaptation Plan

R2 Draft Adaptation Plan - Overview

- **Vulnerability Assessment**
- **Priority Actions**
- **Training**
- **Science Needs**

Next Steps



E.O. 14008 on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, Section 211 (Jan. 27, 2021)

- ▶ “The head of each agency shall submit a draft action plan... within 120 days of the date of this order that describes steps the agency can take with regard to its facilities and operations to bolster adaptation and increase resilience to the impacts of climate change.”

Climate Change and Environmental Justice

“Our country faces converging **economic, health, and climate crises** that have exposed and exacerbated **inequities.**”

- Executive Order 13985 of January 20, 2021, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government





U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

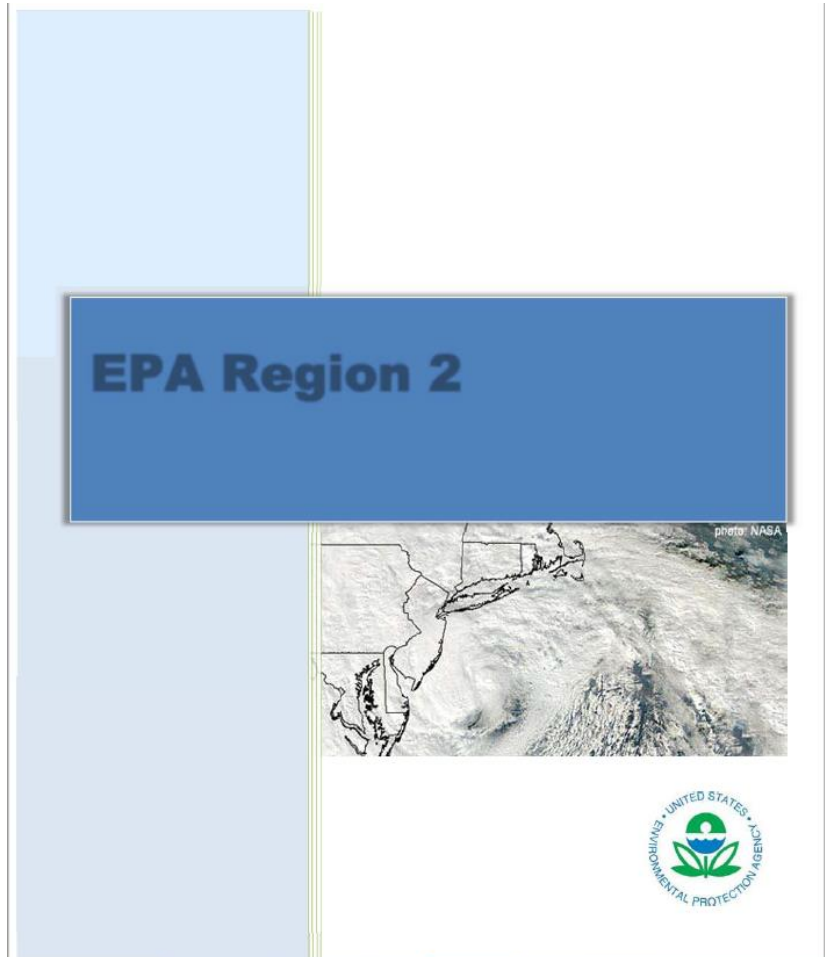
Climate Adaptation Action Plan

OCTOBER 2021



- DIRECTS EPA REGIONAL OFFICES TO UPDATE THEIR 2014 ADAPTATION PLANS

R2 Climate Adaptation Action Plan: Status



1st R2 Climate Adaptation Action Plan:
2014

Revised Draft Plan to EPA's Office of
Planning: February 2022

OP Comments Received: May 2022

Schedule: R2's Updated Plan

Available at: <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-2> (look under Key Issues)

SCHEDULE

- June– Engagement with stakeholders and government partners
- June 30 – Last day for input
- Aug 1 – Revised Plans Submitted to EPA Office of Policy
- Sept. 30 – Final plans released

SUBMIT YOUR INPUT TO:

▶ **Region2_Climate@epa.gov**

Adaptation v. GHG Mitigation

Focus of Adaptation Plan

Climate change **adaptation** or climate adaptation means taking action to prepare for and adjust to both the current and projected **impacts of climate change**.

Not Focus of Adaptation Plan

Climate change **mitigation** refers to actions limiting the magnitude and rate of future climate change by **reducing greenhouse gas emissions**.

R2 Draft Adaptation Plan - Overview

▶ *Vulnerability Assessment*

- ▶ Regional vulnerabilities (e.g., rising seas, high temperatures, tidal flooding)
- ▶ Programmatic vulnerabilities (e.g., Air Quality; Water Quality; Contaminated Sites; Use and Exposure to Toxic Chemicals; EPA's Facilities and Operations)

▶ *36 Regional Priority Actions .*

- ▶ Reduce/adapt to the identified programmatic vulnerabilities
- ▶ Categorized into six thematic areas

▶ *Training EPA Staff*

▶ *Science Needs to better inform climate change adaptation efforts*

What's New In The Vulnerability Assessment?

- ▶ Updated science from 2014
- ▶ Increased emphasis on vulnerable populations
- ▶ New subsection specific to Puerto Rico and the USVI, including impacts of Hurricanes Maria and Irma
- ▶ Updated observations from Indian Nation partners
- ▶ New subsection on Trauma/Mental health
- ▶ New subsection on conflict


Priority Actions: Overview

- ▶ 36 Priority actions
- ▶ 23 Require Additional Resources
- ▶ Targets established for FY '22 and FY '23 only
- ▶ All Divisions contributed actions





Priority Actions: Context

- ▶ Priorities flow from vulnerabilities
 - ▶ Recognizes co-benefits
 - ▶ Adaptive Management
 - ▶ Evolving Information
 - ▶ Uncertainties on effectiveness and feasibilities
 - ▶ Changing resources
- 

Priority Actions: 6 THEMES

(1) Advance Research, Systems and Guidance that Support Climate Adaptation in Region 2

(2) Leverage Partnerships & Conduct Outreach to Enhance Adaptive Capacity in Region 2

(3) Seek Opportunities to Integrate Environmental Justice into Each of Our Climate Change Priority Actions, to the Extent Practicable

(4) Support the Use of Disaster Recovery Resources and Disaster Mitigation Strategies to Assist States, Local Communities, Indian Nations, and Territories in their Adaptation Efforts

(5) Use our Regulatory Authorities to Expand our Work on Climate Adaptation

(6) Maintaining Region 2 Facilities and Operations

Theme 1: Advance Research, Systems & Guidance- Examples

Update the Climate change portion of Region 2's Superfund Five-Year Review Guidance.

Conduct a vulnerability assessment of existing Superfund remedies using various screening tools.

Increase resilience of R2's compliance monitoring & enforcement processes using e-workflows, e-reporting, & electronic recordkeeping.

Modeling and demonstration of the increased impacts of increased cooling degree days (CDD) and High Electric Demand Day (HEDD) emissions by out of region sources to quantify and demonstrate the impacts on the NY metro area O3 nonattainment area.

Theme 2: Leveraging Partnerships & Conducting Outreach - Examples

Partner with State & Federal Agencies to include climate resiliency/climate justice in Bipartisan Infrastructure law-related projects

Conduct outreach to communities & schools with EJ concerns that highlight water-related climate impacts.

Advance adaptation in Region 2 via the Mid-Atlantic Federal Climate Partners

Hold the 3rd Climate Change in the Caribbean Conference

Theme 2: Leveraging Partnerships & Conducting Outreach- Examples (Con't)

Partner with Indian Nations to identify techniques for addressing (1) invasive species impacting biodiversity and crop harvesting; and (2) erosion through shoreline stabilization techniques.

Promote Integrated Pest Management Practices (IPM) and Compliance Assistance to Schools in Environmental Justice Areas by collaborating with them through IPM assessments.

Region 2 will leverage its partnerships with other agencies and institutions and EPA's Office of Research and Development to address the mental health impacts of climate change.

Promote the use of Environmental Collaboration and Conflict Resolution (ECCR) within Region 2 and/or with our partners and stakeholders to support collaborative processes on climate change adaptation.

Theme 3: Integrate Environmental Justice into Climate Change Adaptation Efforts - Examples

Coordination Between the R2 Climate Change & EJ Workgroups

Showcase in the Water Division's annual reports the climate change adaptation efforts of grantees and partners with vulnerable populations

Integrate the concept of climate justice into speeches & talking points.

Theme 4: Supporting Adaptation Efforts of Others via use of Disaster Recovery Funding/Disaster Mitigation Strategies - Examples

Work with our inter-agency partners to identify how disaster funding could be used to support state and local mitigation activities.

Incorporate energy resiliency and natural based solutions in disaster recovery efforts in Region 2

Work along with PR and USVI and federal partners to recognize coral reefs, beaches, wetlands, mangroves, dunes, and seagrass meadows as critical infrastructure

Theme 5: Use of Regulatory Authorities to Promote Climate Adaptation - Examples

Research statutes and regulations that provide discretion on adaptation and incorporate adaptation into our permitting actions.

Focus compliance monitoring activities on sources where compliance with EPA regulations will have the co-benefit of adapting to a changing climate, especially where such activities will advance EJ.

Factor in climate change adaptation into enforcement actions & settlements.

Theme 6: Maintain Facilities & Operations

Maintain Utilities (energy, water, gas) required for facility operation (MSD)

Maintain communications and technological connectivity (MSD)

TRACKING & TRAINING

TARGETS

Track
Progress

TRAINING

Regional Training

Partners/Stakeholders

Science Needs

Overarching
Need: Tool that
integrates all
flooding data

Wetland and
Stream
Restoration and
Preservation

Harmful Algal
Blooms & Water
Quality

Green
Infrastructure
Design
Efficiency

Superfund Green
Remediation
Metrics

Recreational and
Drinking Water
Impacts



Q&A

Guidelines for Virtual Breakout Rooms: World Café

Image courtesy of www.theworldcafe.com

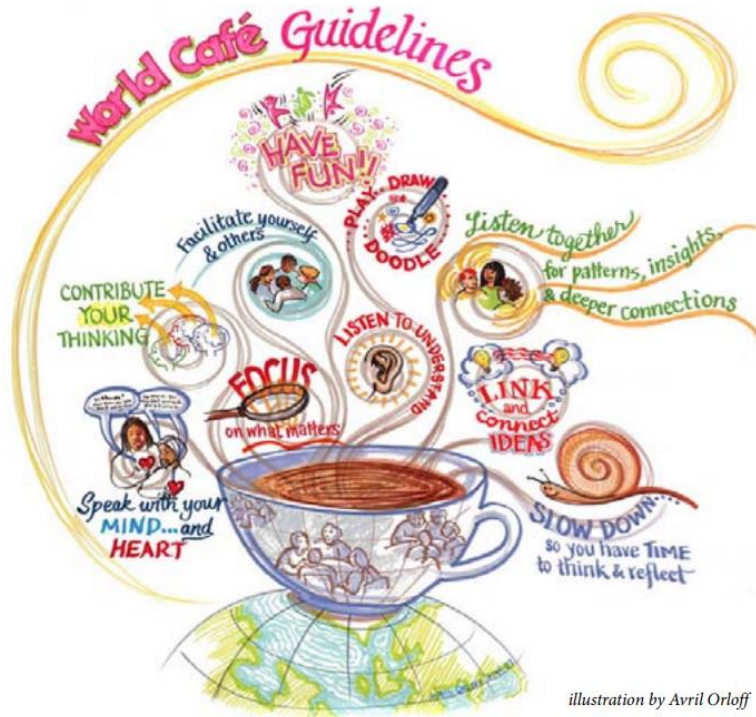


illustration by Avril Orloff

- ▶ Listen to understand
- ▶ Take time to reflect
- ▶ Contribute your thinking
- ▶ Capture your ideas on the whiteboard
- ▶ Give time to others to speak

1st World Café Discussion

What are your biggest concerns regarding the impacts of climate change in Region 2?

2nd World Café Discussion

What adaptation actions should EPA Region 2 take to address your concerns about climate change impacts?

What do you hope to see in Region 2's adaptation plan?

NEXT STEPS/PROVIDING INPUT

- ▶ We welcome input through June 30, 2022
- ▶ Send input to:
 - ▶ Region2_Climate@epa.gov
- ▶ The draft plan is available on EPA Region 2's Website:
 - ▶ <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-2> (look under Key Issues)
 - ▶ This Presentation will be added
 - ▶ **Region 2 considers input and sends revised plan to EPA Office of Policy for Review by August 1, 2022**
- ▶ **Final Plans released by Sept. 30, 2022**