

First EPA Region 3 Climate Workshop

State Climate & Hazard Mitigation Priority Lists for

Breakout Discussions on Thursday, November 10, 2022

The following table lists climate adaptation and climate-related hazard mitigation priorities identified by each jurisdiction in EPA Region 3 for discussion at the workshop. EPA staff have identified a preliminary subset of these topics that may be relevant for each of the three breakout groups:

A = Air (ozone attainment and heat, extreme heat impacts on air quality monitoring, wildfire impacts on AQ and monitoring, mold and related indoor air quality)

W = Water (wastewater/drinking water/stormwater infrastructure, green infrastructure, hazard mitigation)

E = Ecosystems (landscape to local-level adaptation/resiliency planning and policy; nature-based implementation programs and solutions)

District of Columbia			
Climate Ready DC Goals			
The 2016 Climate Ready DC identified four overarching goals for climate adaptation.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation and Infrastructure - Improve transportation and utility infrastructure to maintain viability during periods of extreme heat, extreme weather, and flooding. 	A	W	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buildings and Development - Upgrade existing buildings and design new buildings and development projects to withstand climate change impacts. 	A		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance - Establish the policies, structures, and monitoring and evaluation procedures to ensure successful implementation of the adaptation plan. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighborhoods and Communities - Make neighborhoods and communities safer and more prepared by strengthening community, social, and economic resiliency. 			
Climate Ready by 2050 Priority Actions			
Of the 77 original actions in CRDC, the following were selected for prioritized implementation in the 2020 Climate Ready by 2050 strategic roadmap.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NC 15.2 - Establish community resilience hubs, which would locate emergency preparedness and response supplies in community facilities, whether privately or publicly owned (e.g., churches, community centers). 		W	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BD 6.1 - Evaluate the most critical facilities to identify those with or without existing back-up power systems; determine if they are above 		W	

flood elevations, in good working order, and provide the appropriate capacity for that facility type.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BD 6.2 - Flood proof the most critical facilities to protect against future events accounting for sea level rise and increasingly severe precipitation events. 		W	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BD 7.4 - Evaluate the public housing portfolio for vulnerability to extreme heat and flooding and incorporate resilience in future capital improvement plan. 	A		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NC 12.1 - Encourage active participation by residents and businesses in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery training programs, including the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteer program. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NC 13.1 - Develop thermal mapping of the District to identify UHI hotspots, frontline residents, and areas with the greatest potential for cooling. 	A		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NC 13.2 - Reduce the UHI effect and increases in outside air temperatures with cool and green roofs, expanded green space, tree planting and tree protection efforts, prioritizing hotspots and areas with the greatest number of frontline residents. Incorporate UHI mitigation into planning for green infrastructure, tree canopy, and public space initiatives. 	A	W	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NC 13.3 - Evaluate existing cooling centers, based on the location, accessibility, and needs of frontline residents. Consider areas for pets, security, sign-language interpreters, child friendly amenities, accessible restrooms, medical assistance, back-up power, sleeping areas, drinking water, and proximity to transit. 	A		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NC 12.3 - Identify opportunities to reduce the economic impacts of severe weather and heat-related events on frontline residents through existing programs and new partnerships to reduce utility bills and make homes more resilient. 	A		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TU 3 - Increase combined sewer and separate stormwater system capacity with green and gray infrastructure, including rain gardens, green roofs, trees, cisterns, and pervious pavement. Focus first on areas that flood regularly, have steep topography, or have known drainage capacity issues. 		W	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BD 7.3 - Expand existing incentive programs to include thermal safety and UHI mitigation measures. 	A		
Climate Ready by 2050 Progress Indicators			
The following were selected in the 2020 Climate Ready by 2050 strategic roadmap as initial indicators to measure climate adaptation progress.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation and Infrastructure - Total number of Transportation and Utility projects specifically incorporating climate projections into planned or implemented designs and operations. 		W	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings and Development - Total number of buildings (including critical facilities) specifically incorporating climate change into planned or implemented designs and operations. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance - Number of government plans completed that integrate climate change into long-term programming and investments. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighborhoods and Communities - Number of trees planted in the most heat sensitive areas throughout the District; Number of residents within walking distance of a resilience hub. 	A		

Delaware

Foundational Actions

Section 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 of the Climate Action Plan highlight several foundational actions that Delaware should take that will broadly support all the strategies in the Plan. We are moving forward with all of them now:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating Delaware's state specific climate scenarios and climate indicators for temperature, precipitation and sea level rise, based on the most recent global climate models. Visit https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/climate-change/ for info on existing tools. 	A	W	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing professional development opportunities for state, local, academic, non-profit and businesses for climate change, in partnership with the Association of Climate Change Officers. Visit https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/climate-plan/academy/. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a set of tracking metrics so we can track progress on goals over time. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equitable climate actions - ensuring community engagement and that climate actions benefit disadvantaged communities. 	A		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce development - training the workforce of tomorrow for the opportunities that are coming and ensuring that jobs created especially create opportunity for disadvantaged communities. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative efforts such as last year's SB 305 which did not pass but would have codified some of the above and provided statutory authority for incorporating climate change into regulatory updates. 			

Implementing Strategies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Here is a relatively updated list of action we are taking now to implement the plan: https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/climate-plan/actions-taken/. There is a focus on the transportation and electricity sector to reduce emissions and natural and working lands to sequester and store carbon. 	A		E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is in addition to long-standing initiatives to increase resiliency to flooding. 		W	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New focus on heat impacts, which we have not heavily focused on in the past. A partnership in DE will be applying for a NOAA Heat Island mapping project grant with a focus on the greater Wilmington area. 	A		
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Maryland

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect life, property, the economy, and the environment from hazard events to the greatest extent possible. 		W	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase public awareness of potential hazards, mitigation actions, preparedness efforts, and resiliency planning. 		W	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect state assets, infrastructure, and critical facilities from hazard events. 		W	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance coordination across the whole community, including federal, state, and local government, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), by strengthening existing linkages and creating new linkages between state and local mitigation and resiliency efforts. 	A	W	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote actions that protect natural resources while enhancing hazard mitigation and community resiliency. 			E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and implement projects that will reduce the impacts of hazards and efficiently use state resources. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate hazard mitigation planning into other state planning efforts (comprehensive plan, floodplain management regulations, land use/zoning, green infrastructure) and encourage and educate counties and municipalities to integrate across local plans and ordinances. 		W	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and reduce flood hazard impacts in areas outside of the SFHA, which have experienced increased frequency and intensity in flooding but do not meet FEMA’s RL and SRL criteria. 			E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce flood-related losses, with an emphasis on reducing RL and SRL properties over the next hazard mitigation planning cycle. 			E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the development of policies, programs, initiatives, and projects that prioritize diversity, equity, and environmental justice. 	A		

Pennsylvania

PA DEP has identified several priority areas for adaptation based a risk assessment conducted for our [2021 Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment](#). Those priority areas are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce extreme heat risks to human health, particularly for vulnerable populations. 	A		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support key sectors in the transition to a warmer climate, including agriculture, recreation and tourism, and forests, ecosystems, and wildlife. 			E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce flood risks to infrastructure and communities. 		W	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help low-income households cope with potential increased energy burden. 	A		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance tropical storm and landslide risk mitigation. 		W	
Virginia			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant progress on achieving water quality goals. 		W	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term resilience planning and funding. 		W	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliable, affordable energy policies that embrace zero and low carbon sources but are realistic about the transition to these sources. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased focus on renewable energy siting and environmental remediation/redevelopment opportunities. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preservation of agricultural and forest land. 			E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased land conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities. 			E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued air quality improvement. 	A		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and growth of recreational and commercial fisheries and oyster habitats. 			E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased focus on habitat restoration. 			E
West Virginia			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and reduce flood hazard impacts and risks to infrastructure and communities, particularly vulnerable disadvantaged communities. 		W	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased focus on habitat restoration for sensitive species, primarily brook trout. 			E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the development of climate resilient BMPs to reduce the risk from more frequent and intense storm events. 		W	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce fugitive methane emissions through plugging of orphaned wells and capturing of coal bed methane releases. 	A		



EPA MID-ATLANTIC REGION 2022 SUMMIT

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