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EPA Climate Change and Water News is a bi-weekly newsletter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water that covers climate change and water-related news from EPA, other U.S. Federal agencies, and partners. To learn more about climate change impacts on water resources, visit our website at: <http://www.epa.gov/water/climatechange>.

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EPA News

EPA National Water Program Releases 2014 Highlights of Progress: Responses to Climate Change by the National Water Program

The EPA National Water Program has released a 2014 Highlights of Progress Report that provides a summary of major accomplishments addressing climate change and water by the EPA National Water Program and Regional water programs during 2014. In addition, major research projects addressing climate change and water that were completed in 2014 by the EPA Office of Research and Development are also described. The Report is organized around the six long-term programmatic areas described in the "National Water Program 2012 Strategy: Response to Climate Change:" water infrastructure; watersheds and wetlands; coastal and ocean waters; water quality; working with Tribes; and cross-cutting support.

Click [here to access the report](#).

Water Utility Response On-The-Go Mobile Website Launched

The EPA Climate Ready Water Utilities Initiative has launched an innovative tool that consolidates, and makes accessible from the field, information and tools that water utility operators and their response partners may need during an emergency. The site allows users to: identify and contact emergency response partners; monitor local and national severe weather; review and complete incident-specific checklists; and populate, save and email both generic damage assessment forms and FEMA incident command system forms.

Click [here to view the mobile website](#).

Adaptation Strategies Guide for Water Utilities Updated

Updates recently made to the "Adaptation Strategies Guide for Water Utilities" introduce climate change and adaptation planning to water sector utilities by outlining climate challenges based on type and geographic region. The Guide provides suggested adaptation strategies for system impacts associated with climate change challenges of drought, water quality degradation, ecosystem changes, and changes in service demand and use. New features of the 2015 edition include: information based on updated models data from the U.S. Global Change Research Program 2014 Report, sustainability briefs addressing green infrastructure, energy management, and water demand management, and updated water utility climate adaptation case studies.

Click [here to download the guide as a PDF](#).

EPA and Partners Announce Extreme Events and Climate Adaptation Training Workshops for Utilities and Technical Assistance Providers

EPA, in partnership with water sector associations, is offering a series of 8 workshops for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater utilities, and technical assistance providers that focus on understanding and adapting to challenges from extreme events, featuring training on the Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool (CREAT). These interactive, two-day workshops will have hands-on technical training sessions using CREAT as well as panel discussions on funding and implementation for adaptation strategies.

Click [here to register for Utility Training Workshops](#).

Click [here to register for Train-the-Trainer Workshops](#)

Other Federal News

New Executive Order Focuses on Sustainability within the Federal Government

On March 19, 2015, President Obama signed an Executive Order that will ensure that the federal government leads by example as the United States moves to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while boosting clean energy. With a footprint that includes 360,000 buildings, 650,000 fleet vehicles, and \$445 billion spent annually on goods and services, the federal government's actions to reduce pollution, support renewable energy, and operate more efficiently can make a significant impact on national

emissions. The Executive Order outlines a number of measures to make the federal government's operations more sustainable, efficient and energy-secure, including directing federal agencies to cut their greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2025, and reducing water intensity in federal buildings by 2 percent per year through 2025.

Click [here to access the Executive Order](#).

Click [here for the Fact Sheet](#).

U.S. Department of Interior Northeast Climate Science Center Releases 2014 Annual Report

The report highlights research activities and accomplishments for a variety of events and projects held over the last year by the Northeast Climate Science Center. Events include the Shifting Seasons Building Capacity for Tribal Climate Change Adaptation Summit as well as the annual Fellows Retreat introducing Climate Science Center Graduate and Postdoctoral Fellows to the climate adaptation challenges of forestry management. The report also describes the Climate Science Center's contributions to mapping in the Northeast region, including baseline mapping improvements and changing species distributions.

These and other accomplishments are described in the annual report.

Click [here to access the report](#).

Other News

National Research Council Releases Report on Affordability of Flood Insurance and Hosts Webinar to Discuss Results on April 8th

The National Research Council has released a new report on affordability of flood insurance and scheduled a webinar to present the findings on April 8, 2015. The report states that given projections of sea-level rise and extreme precipitation from climate change, the United States will experience more frequent and more severe flood events in coming years. National Flood Insurance Program policies, therefore, should be geared toward making relocation the easiest and most attractive option for property owners to pursue. In "Affordability of National Flood Insurance Program Premiums, Report 1," an expert committee discusses measures that could make flood insurance more affordable for all policyholders and provides a framework for policymakers to use in designing targeted assistance programs.

[Click here to access the report](#).

[Click here to register for the webinar](#).

New York City Panel on Climate Change Releases 2015 Report on Building the Knowledge Base for Climate Resiliency

The climate of the New York City metropolitan region is changing - annual temperatures are hotter, heavy downpours are increasingly frequent, and the sea is rising. This report represents the work of the New York City Panel on Climate Change, which has been assessing climate change in the New York City region since 2008. The New York City Mayor's office is working with the Panel to utilize the report findings to inform policy decisions, from building codes to emergency preparedness measures.

Click [here to access the report](#).

Pacific Institute Report: "Impacts of California's Ongoing Drought: Hydroelectricity Generation"

The Pacific Institute's new report reveals the California drought has reduced water flow to generate hydroelectricity, resulting in increased reliance on natural gas. This shift in energy sources for electricity during the three-year drought has resulted in an estimated \$1.4 billion to rate payers. The increased burning of natural gas during that time also has led to an eight percent increase in greenhouse gas emissions, putting the state further from its climate change targets. There are a wide range of social, environmental, and economic costs associated with the California drought, specifically with the generation of electricity, raising the question: how will we factor in climate change and consequently future droughts when planning for electricity generation?

Click [here to access the report](#).

Upcoming Webinars, Conferences and Trainings

For a calendar of climate change and water-related trainings, conferences, and webinars, visit:
<http://water.epa.gov/scitech/climatechange/Calendar-of-Events.cfm>.

This newsletter is produced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water (EPA). If you have questions related to the newsletter or want to submit an item, email the editor at water_climate_change@epa.gov. For past issues of EPA Climate Change and Water News, as well as further information on climate change impacts on water resources, visit www.epa.gov/water/climatechange. For more information on EPA's climate change activities, visit www.epa.gov/climatechange. To unsubscribe to this newsletter, send a blank email to [Unsubscribe](#).