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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://www2.epa.gov/climate-change-water-sector>.

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EPA News

EPA Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center Launches New Website

EPA's Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center has a new website that communities can reference for financing drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure. Communities across the country are facing challenges with aging infrastructure. The need for water sector resiliency is becoming more and more of a focus for utilities across the nation. The Center has been actively working to identify best practices for innovative financing and provide technical assistance to communities to meet these water financing needs.

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

EPA Launches New Tool to Support Community Interest in Green Infrastructure

EPA has released a new web-based tool that helps local officials and other community members consider the benefits and uses of green infrastructure. Green infrastructure relies on vegetation, soils, and natural processes to manage stormwater and create healthier urban environments. The Green Infrastructure Wizard, or GIWiz, responds to growing community interest in using green infrastructure as a means of addressing water quality and a range of other local goals. Using a self-guided format, users can find EPA tools and resources to learn the basics of green infrastructure and explore options for financing it; visualize and design rain gardens and permeable pavements, understand how other communities are using green infrastructure to revitalize neighborhoods, and develop public education and outreach campaigns. EPA invites additional input on this version of the product.

[Click here to access GIWiz.](#)

EPA Announces Green Infrastructure Campus Demonstration Project Grant Winners

EPA has announced the winners of the first-ever Green Infrastructure Campus Demonstration Projects grants. The goal of these awards is to encourage more sustainable stormwater management by increasing knowledge of green infrastructure and educating the next generation of scientists, designers, and engineers about green infrastructure principles and practices. By supporting green infrastructure demonstrations and training, colleges and universities can significantly advance the implementation of green infrastructure to protect water quality. This award builds on the success of EPA's Campus RainWorks Challenge.

[Click here to learn more about the project winners.](#)

Other Federal News

USDA Draft Report: "Climate Change, Global Food Security, and the U.S. Food System" Released for Public Review; Comments Due October 8

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has led the development of an interagency assessment report entitled "Climate Change, Global Food Security, and the U.S. Food System." The report has been developed to support the National Climate Assessment of the U.S. Global Change Research Program and is called for under the President's Climate Action Plan. USDA is requesting input from the public through a Federal Register Notice. The final report will be published on USDA's website.

[Click here for the Federal Register Notice.](#)

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

Northeast Stream Temperature Inventory & Decision Support Tool Released

Climate change is expected to alter stream temperature and flow regimes over the coming decades, and in turn influence distribution of aquatic species in those freshwater ecosystems. To better anticipate these changes, there is a need to compile both short- and long-term stream temperature data to gain an understanding of baseline conditions, historic trends, and future projections. Unfortunately, many agencies lack sufficient resources to compile, conduct quality assurance and control, and make accessible stream temperature data collected through routine monitoring. The NorEaST web portal was

developed to meet this need, serving as a coordinated, multi-agency regional framework to map and store continuous stream temperature locations and data for New England, Mid Atlantic, and Great Lakes States. Organizations collecting continuous stream temperature data can request to become NorEaST user and data stewards and can use the web portal to store and manage their organization's continuous stream temperature data.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

First-Ever National Climate Boot Camp to Address Tribal Needs and Concerns Related to Climate Change

Members of Tribes from across the United States will convene in June 2016 for the first-ever National Tribal Climate Boot Camp. The Boot Camp will bring together early-career professionals from among the 83 member Tribes of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and United South and Eastern Tribes for a week-long intensive educational experience to learn about climate-related impacts. The camp will address Tribes' climate-related needs, including in-depth immersion in climate science, indigenous/traditional ecological knowledge, policy and management issues, and science communication and outreach. The event is part of a recently announced bi-coastal tribal climate change initiative, a collaborative effort of two tribal organizations, the Institute for Tribal Government, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S. Department of the Interior's Northwest Climate Science Center.

[Click here for the press release.](#)

Northeast Habitat Map Viewer and Dataset Developed

As both a practical tool for conservation professionals and an educational resource for nature enthusiasts, the Northeast Habitat dataset and map viewer offers a way to find answers to questions about the terrestrial landscape. The map includes the Northeast's 140 common and unique terrestrial habitats, information on each habitat's ecology, plants and animals, regional abundance, and predicted loss to development; base maps to explore how the Habitat Map overlays on satellite imagery or topographic maps; and, scientifically rigorous datasets, reports, and an interactive web map. The map and data were created by The Nature Conservancy with funding from the Northeast Climate Science Center and the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative. The map uses a classification system adapted from the U.S. National Vegetation Classification and Canadian National Vegetation Classification.

[Click here for the press release.](#)

Other News

Report: Performance of Natural Infrastructure and Nature-based Measures as Coastal Risk Reduction Features

The Environmental Defense Fund has released a report that represents a review of the state of knowledge on the performance of natural and nature-based infrastructure as compiled from existing literature and participant input obtained during an expert workshop. "Performance of Natural Infrastructure and Nature-Based Measures as Coastal Risk Reduction Features" includes a table summarizing the most current state of understanding of the coastal storm and sea level rise risk reduction performance of natural infrastructure.

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

New Software Tool Improves Water Quality, Reduces Consumption

A team of Colorado companies have spearheaded the Net Zero Water (NZW) Initiative and launched a first-of-its-kind building scale software toolkit to achieve water neutrality. The NZW Initiative was launched in October 2013, and recently, a user-friendly Microsoft Excel-based analysis tool and companion guidebook was released. The NZW Initiative aims to recognize financial and environmental benefits from reducing water use and quality impacts; promote water stewardship; and, provide technical guidance and assistance to enhance the utilization and protection of water resources from the building scale to an entire watershed. The NZW concept builds off the principles of net zero energy and climate neutrality. Being water neutral means using only as much water as falls on your site and eliminating all water quality

impacts from the site. In essence, NZW focuses on understanding your water footprint and taking action to reduce consumption and improve water quality. The team is looking for volunteers to test the toolkit. [Click here for the press release.](#)
[Click here to learn more.](#)

Upcoming Webinars, Conferences and Training

[Click here for a calendar of climate change and water-related trainings, conferences, and webinars.](#)

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 <http://www2.epa.gov/climate-change-water-sector>.