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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>.

EPA News

- [EPA Awards \\$4 Million in Grants to Research Impact of Drought on Water Quality](#)
- [Webinar: "Navigating the U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit – How the Toolkit Can Support Local Planning and Decisions for Enhanced Community Resilience" TODAY 12:00-1:00pm eastern](#)
- [Webinar: "Save Water and Energy with EPA's WaterSense Program" to be held TODAY 2:00-3:30pm eastern](#)
- [EPA and Antioch University to Host Local Solutions: Eastern Regional Climate Change Preparedness Conference - Baltimore, Maryland; April 4-5, 2016](#)
- [Video from EPA Climate Ready Estuaries Program: "Preparing for Climate Change in Long Island, New York"](#)
- [Report Outlines Ways to Transform Water Treatment Plants into Water Resource Recovery Facilities](#)

Other Federal News

- [Northeast Climate Science Center to Host Webinar: Massachusetts Wildlife Climate Action Tool – December 2, 2015](#)
- [Nominations for Climate Adaptation Leadership Award for Natural Resources Due January 8](#)

Other News

- [Report: Explaining Extreme Events of 2014 from a Climate Perspective](#)
- [Colorado Releases Climate Plan: State Level Policies and Strategies to Mitigate and Adapt](#)

EPA News

EPA Awards \$4 Million in Grants to Research Impact of Drought on Water Quality

EPA has announced \$4 million in grants will be given to four institutions to conduct research to combat the effects of drought and extreme events on water quality in watersheds and at drinking water utilities. These grants will provide innovative strategies for protecting water quality and public health during periods of drought. Increasing demands on the nation's water resources, climate change, population

growth and aging water infrastructure systems pose substantial threats to these resources. The following institutions received funding through the EPA's Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program: Clemson University, Water Research Foundation & the University of Colorado at Boulder, Public Policy Institute of California at University of California - Davis, and the University of Utah.

[Learn more.](#)

Webinar: “Navigating the U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit – How the Toolkit Can Support Local Planning and Decisions for Enhanced Community Resilience”

TODAY 12:00-1:00pm eastern

Webinar participants will learn how the [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#) can be used to support local planning and decisions for enhanced community resilience. The webinar will walk participants through the Toolkit's Five-Step Planning Process and examples of its use. The Planning Process includes: (1) Identifying the problem; (2) Determining vulnerabilities; (3) Investigating options; (4) Evaluating the risks and costs: considering risks and values to analyze the costs and benefits of favored options; and (5) Taking action.

[Register here.](#)

Webinar: “Save Water and Energy with EPA’s WaterSense Program” to be held TODAY 2:00-3:30pm eastern

Learn how EPA's WaterSense program can help you reduce your financial and operational risks by proactively managing your building's water use, and save energy in the process. Come away with an understanding of available water-efficient products and best management practices to reduce water use in all types of commercial and institutional facilities.

[Register here.](#)

EPA and Antioch University to Host Local Solutions: Eastern Regional Climate Change Preparedness Conference - Baltimore, Maryland; April 4-5, 2016

This "how to" capacity-building regional conference is designed for decision makers at the local level (municipal, county, regional planning, watershed). Learn how to prepare for severe weather and climate impacts and to build health and resiliency into your community plans. Presenters will share best practices and tools for climate change resilience.

[See more about the conference agenda, registration, posters, and workshops.](#)

Video from EPA Climate Ready Estuaries Program: “Preparing for Climate Change in Long Island, New York”

EPA has produced a new video on how coastal communities are preparing for the challenges brought on by climate change. The Peconic Estuary Program is using EPA's publication, “Being Prepared for Climate Change: A Workbook for Developing Risk-Based Adaptation Plans” to create a risk-based climate change vulnerability assessment. This video describes some climate change impacts that are already affecting eastern Long Island. Local people explain why they are conducting the assessment and describe some of the ways they are starting to respond to climate change risks.

[View the video.](#)

[Access the Workbook for Developing Risk-Based Adaptation Plans.](#)

Report Outlines Ways to Transform Water Treatment Plants into Water Resource Recovery Facilities

A new report outlines a range of research and actions needed to transform today's water treatment plants into water resource recovery facilities that generate clean drinking water, biofuels, chemicals, and other water grades for specific uses, like agriculture. The “Energy-Positive Water Resource Recovery Workshop Report” summarizes discussions and ideas presented at a workshop held by EPA, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the National Science Foundation. With the nation's aging water infrastructure, a unique window of opportunity exists to apply new knowledge and technology to create an industry shift

from wastewater treatment to water resource recovery. Such a shift offers the potential to reduce the financial burdens on municipalities, decrease stress on energy systems, cut air and water pollution, improve system resiliency to climate impacts, and support local economic activity.

[Read more.](#)

Other Federal News

Northeast Climate Science Center to Host Webinar: Massachusetts Wildlife Climate Action Tool – December 2, 2015

The Massachusetts Wildlife Climate Action Tool is designed to inform and inspire local action to protect natural resources in a changing climate. This Tool focuses on providing information for a range of local decision-makers, including conservation practitioners, landowners, municipal agencies, and community leaders, seeking to conduct on-the-ground climate change adaptation efforts. With this tool, users can: 1) access information on climate change impacts and vulnerabilities of fish and wildlife species and associated habitats; 2) explore adaptation strategies and actions to help maintain healthy, resilient natural communities based on location and area of interest; and find additional resources to help guide decision-making and actions. Initial development of the tool is focused on fish and wildlife species, forests and forestry practices, aquatic and terrestrial connectivity (with a focus on roads and culverts), land protection, and conservation planning. Although this tool was designed for Massachusetts, it provides broadly relevant climate and adaptation information and can serve as a model for related efforts.

[Details can be found here.](#)

Nominations for Climate Adaptation Leadership Award for Natural Resources Due January 8

The Climate Adaptation Leadership Award for Natural Resources was developed to recognize and incentivize exemplary efforts by federal, state, tribal, local, and non-governmental entities to reduce climate-related threats and promote adaptation of the nation's natural resources and the people that depend on them. Three to five Awards are expected to be given in the first year (2016). Projects must address one or more of the goals identified in the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy. Nominations are due by January 8, 2016.

[Learn more.](#)

Other News

Report: Explaining Extreme Events of 2014 from a Climate Perspective

The report, "Explaining Extreme Events of 2014 from a Climate Perspective," published by the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, addresses the natural and human causes of individual extreme events from around the world, including Antarctica, in 2014. NOAA scientists served as four of the five lead editors on the report. In this year's report, 32 groups of scientists from around the world investigate 28 individual extreme events in 2014 and break out various factors that led to the extreme events, including the degree to which natural variability and human-induced climate change played a role. National Centers for Environmental Information.

View the [full report](#) online.

See the [NOAA Press Release](#) and view the [slides for the media briefing](#) on the report.

Colorado Releases Climate Plan: State Level Policies and Strategies to Mitigate and Adapt

The Colorado Climate Plan focuses on seven main sectors including water, public health, energy, transportation, agriculture, tourism and recreation, and ecosystems. The plan also includes a chapter highlighting ways local governments and businesses are playing a significant role. Moving forward, the Colorado Climate Plan will serve as a roadmap for state agencies to confront some of the worst effects of

climate change and identify priority actions. Each state agency that helped develop the plan will hold public engagement sessions specific to their agency throughout the coming year.
[Access the Plan along with additional information.](#)

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>.