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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 Releases Drought Response and Recovery Guide for Water Utilities

Recent droughts have affected operations at a large number of water utilities nationwide. With changing climate and shifting weather patterns, these drought impacts are likely to continue for years to come. The Drought Guide is an innovative interactive tool designed to assist small- to medium-sized water utilities with responding to drought. It features best practices and customizable worksheets and focuses on short-

term/emergency drought mitigation actions that also build long-term resilience to drought. Accompanying the guide is an interactive drought case studies map and a multimedia GeoPlatform website documenting, in both video and written form, the stories of seven utilities which have responded to extreme drought conditions.

[Learn more.](#)

EPA Study Supports Long-term Benefits of Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development

This modeling study estimates the flood loss avoidance benefits from application of small storm retention practices for new development and redevelopment nationwide. Twenty watersheds were modeled in areas where significant growth is expected between 2020 and 2040, using the FEMA Hazus model and national-scale datasets. The area of the watersheds ranges between 500 and 3,000 square miles.

Results show that, over time, the use of green stormwater infrastructure can save hundreds of millions of dollars in flood losses while only applying the practices to new development and redevelopment. If retrofitting were to occur, the avoided losses would be even more significant.

[Learn more.](#)

Green Streets: The Road to Clean Water Video

This video highlights green streets as a technique for managing stormwater and providing other economic and community benefits. Shown are examples of green streets in localities that have worked with EPA and other partners to incorporate green streets as part of their stormwater management plans. Green features shown include porous pavement, rain gardens, vegetative curb areas, and sidewalk trees.

[Watch the video.](#)

EPA Report Shows Half of U.S. Rivers and Streams in Poor Condition

This recent study on the state of rivers and streams in the United States finds that 46% of the nation's river and stream miles do not support healthy populations of aquatic life, largely due to phosphorus and nitrogen pollution and poor habitat conditions. The National Rivers and Streams Assessment is the result of surveys of 1.2 million miles of rivers and streams conducted in 2008-2009. Phosphorus and nitrogen pollution comes from excess fertilizers, wastewater, runoff from urban areas, and other sources. The pollution can cause algae blooms and other problems such as low oxygen levels. Poor habitat conditions make rivers and streams more vulnerable to flooding, contribute to erosion, and allow more pollutants to enter waterways.

[Learn more.](#)

Other Federal News

Climate Change a Growing Threat to Human Health: U.S Global Change Research Program Report

The report, "The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment," strengthens our understanding of the growing risks that a changing climate poses to human health and welfare and highlights factors that make some individuals and communities particularly vulnerable. Chapters include topics such as extreme events, water-related illness, and more. The assessment is a product of the National Climate Assessment process and represents a coordinated effort by eight federal agencies, including EPA, and more than 100 other experts. The report is accompanied by an interactive web presence.

[View blog entry](#), [fact sheet](#), and [the report](#).

[Learn more about Impacts to Human Health in the National Climate Assessment.](#)

[View the Health Section of the Climate Resilient Toolkit.](#)

Commitments to Water Sustainability Announced Following Water Summit

On March 22, 2016, the White House hosted the first Water Summit to discuss the actions and commitments necessary for building a sustainable water future. Following the Summit, The White House announced that nearly \$4 billion in private capital will be invested in water-infrastructure projects nationwide, more than \$1 billion from the private sector will be allocated to innovative research and technology, and nearly \$35 million in federal grants this year will support cutting-edge water science. The Executive Office also introduced a Presidential Memorandum and supporting Action Plan on building drought resilience as well as a new National Water Model for improving river-forecasting.

[View the Memorandum](#) and [Action Plan](#).

NOAA Awards \$9 Million in Community Resilience Grants

NOAA has awarded a total of \$9 million, designed to help coastal communities improve their resilience to adverse events by aiding their ability to prepare for and respond to a variety of coastal threats, including extreme weather events, climate hazards, and changing ocean conditions. More than 130 proposals were received from coastal communities and 12 projects covering 200 coastal communities and 19 states were selected for funding.

[See the press release](#).

[Learn more about the Regional Coastal Resilience Grants program](#).

[View a full list of projects](#).

Department of Interior Report Underscores Impacts of Climate Change on Western Water Resources

The Department of Interior and Bureau of Reclamation have released a basin-by-basin report that characterizes the impacts of climate change and details adaptation strategies to better protect major river basins in the West. The SECURE Water Act Report identifies climate change as a growing risk to Western water management and cites' warmer temperatures, changes to precipitation, snowpack, and the timing and quality of streamflow runoff across major river basins as threats to water sustainability. In addition, an online tool was launched, enabling the public to visualize the regional impacts and potential adaptation options. The tool allows users to check, by basin, how temperature, precipitation, and snowpack are projected to be affected by climate change, and how climate change may affect runoff and water supplies

[View the press release](#).

[Read fact sheet, the report, and the visualization tool](#).

NOAA Announces Climate Stewards Education Project

NOAA is collaborating with federal, state and non-governmental organizations partners to convene six climate-science workshops for formal and informal educators. Workshops will be held in California, Michigan, Utah, Louisiana, Colorado, and South Carolina. Participants will hear from and interact with climate science, education and communication experts, and visit facilities to explore innovations in climate research, mitigation and/or adaptation. Each workshop will focus on regional and/or topical impacts of climate change, with a goal of connecting educators and their students/audiences to the best-available, science-based information and resources about climate change. Availability will be on a first come, first serve basis. Workshops are free. All attendees will receive a certificate and professional development hours.

[Learn more](#).

[For dates and locations, see calendar](#).

Funding Opportunities

\$500 Million Available in Transportation Grants Program

Through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program, the U.S. Department of Transportation is making up to \$500 million available for capital projects

related to highways, bridges, public transportation, rail, ports, and intermodal projects. A primary selection criterion address environmental sustainability including avoiding adverse environmental impacts to water quality, providing environmental benefits such as ground water recharge in areas of water scarcity, and stormwater mitigation, including green infrastructure. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how the project will reduce stormwater runoff. Deadline: April 29, 2016.

[Learn more.](#)

WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program

This funding announcement from the Bureau of Reclamation invites States, Tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, local governmental entities, non-profit organizations, existing watershed groups, and local and special districts to submit proposals for activities to establish or further develop a watershed group. Funding provided under this announcement may be used to develop a mission statement, project concepts, and/or a restoration plan. Deadline: May 4, 2016.

[Learn more.](#)

\$260 Million Available for Regional Conservation Partnership Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting proposals for Regional Conservation Partnership Program funding to improve the nation's water quality, combat drought, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat, and protect agricultural viability. Applicants must be able to match the federal award with private or local funds. Deadline: May 10, 2016.

[Learn more.](#)

USDA Commits \$20 Million to Innovative Conservation Projects

The Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program aims to spark the development and adoption of cutting-edge conservation technologies and approaches for farmers, ranchers, and other landowners. Administered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, CIG is designed to focus on innovative conservation projects that promote science-based solutions to benefit both producers and the environment. Projects may include on-farm pilot projects and field demonstrations and are funded to accelerate the transfer and adoption of promising technologies to landowners in order to address critical natural resource concerns. USDA is also seeking CIG proposals for projects to stimulate natural resource solutions to protect or improve the quality of ground and surface water. Deadline: May 10, 2016

[Learn more.](#)

Upcoming Events

[See a calendar of climate change and water-related training, conferences, and webinars.](#)

This newsletter is produced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water (EPA). For questions related to the newsletter, or 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>