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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 National Water Program Releases 2015 Climate Change Highlights of Progress Report](#)
- [New EPA Climate Change Training Module - "Understanding Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources"](#)
- [EPA Announces Winners of Fourth Annual Campus RainWorks Challenge](#)
- [EPA and Partners to Host Two Webinars on Utilities in the Future – May 4 and 19](#)

Other Federal News

- [Nominate a White House Champion of Change for Climate Equity](#)
- [2015 Annual Report for National Climate Change & Wildlife Science Center and Climate Science Centers Network Released](#)
- [USDA Invests \\$103 Million in Vital Watershed Projects to Protect Public Safety](#)
- [Drought Risk and Adaptation in the Interior United States](#)
- [Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Climate Resilience Program 2016 Funding Opportunity](#)
- [USDA Announces \\$260 Million Available for Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#)

Other News

- [City Parks, Clean Water: Making Great Places Using Green Infrastructure](#)
- [2016 Stormwater Management Green Infrastructure Awards Program – Due May 17](#)

EPA News

EPA National Water Program Releases 2015 Climate Change Highlights of Progress Report

The "2015 Highlights of Progress: Responses to Climate Change by the EPA National Water Program" provides a summary of the major climate change-related accomplishments of EPA's national and regional water programs during 2015. In addition, major research projects addressing climate change and water that were completed in 2015 by the EPA Office of Research and Development are described. The report reflects annual implementation of "EPA's National Water Program 2012 Strategy: Response to Climate Change."

[Read the Report.](#)

New EPA Climate Change Training Module - “Understanding Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources”

EPA has a new online training module - "Understanding Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources." This training is intended to increase water resource professionals' understanding of the causes of climate change, its potential impacts on water resources, and the challenges that water resource professionals face. The module describes how federal, state, tribal, and local governments and communities are working to make the United States more resilient to the impacts of climate. The 45-minute training is part of the EPA Watershed Academy web certificate program.

[Learn More and Take the Training.](#)

EPA Announces Winners of Fourth Annual Campus RainWorks Challenge

EPA has announced the winners of the fourth Campus RainWorks Challenge, a design competition created to engage college and university students in reinventing our water infrastructure and developing green infrastructure systems to reduce stormwater pollution and build resilience to climate change. Teams competed in one of two design categories: a Demonstration Project category or a Master Plan category. Teams of undergraduate and graduate students, working with a faculty advisor, developed innovative green infrastructure designs in one of the categories, showing how managing stormwater at its source can benefit the campus community and the environment. EPA plans to conduct the Campus RainWorks Challenge again in Fall 2016.

[Learn More.](#)

EPA and Partners to Host Two Webinars on Utilities in the Future – May 4 and 19

EPA, along with Water Environment Federation, National Association of Clean Water Agencies, Water Environment Research Foundation, and WaterReuse, will host two webinars - May 4 and May 19, 2016. These webinars are part of a series focused on innovative ways in which utilities are becoming their own Utility of the Future. May 4 will be on "The Utility of the Future" and May 19 will be on "Enabling Water Resources Utility of the Future." Future webinars will cover other leading topics such as building public support, green infrastructure, and watershed-based solutions.

[For Dates and Times, Check the Calendar.](#)

Other Federal News

Nominate a White House Champion of Change for Climate Equity

As the Administration develops programs and policies to help low-income and underserved communities adapt to climate change, examples of resilience often are seen coming from the leaders, innovators, and communicators who are working within these communities. Help the White House identify these Champions of Change who are working within vulnerable communities to help ensure that those most at-risk of the negative impacts of climate change have opportunities to adapt and thrive in a changing future. Applications close Friday, June 10, 2016.

[Read the Blog Post.](#)

[Nominate a Champion.](#)

2015 Annual Report for National Climate Change & Wildlife Science Center and Climate Science Centers Network Released

The accomplishments included in this 2015 report include: initiating a national effort to understand the influence of drought on wildlife and ecosystems; providing numerous opportunities for students and early career researchers to expand their networks and learn more about climate change effects; and working with Tribes and indigenous communities to expand their knowledge of and preparation for the impacts of climate change.

[Learn More in the 2015 Annual Report.](#)

USDA Invests \$103 Million in Vital Watershed Projects to Protect Public Safety

USDA is investing up to \$103 million in post-disaster recovery and the rehabilitation of aging dams in 19 States. Funding through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service will invest \$93 million in Emergency Watershed Protection Program assistance to help state and local governments carry out much needed recovery projects to address damage caused by floods, hurricanes, wildfires and other natural disasters.

[Read the Fact Sheet.](#)

[View the Press Release.](#)

[View a Full List of Projects.](#)

Drought Risk and Adaptation in the Interior United States

Droughts are a natural part of the history in many places in the United States. However climate change is influencing the way we document, understand, and predict drought impacts. These circumstances in turn are changing the way land and resource managers plan for the future. A team of researchers from the North Central Climate Science Center recently conducted a study to explore and characterize the ways in which some federal and tribal natural resource managers have experienced and dealt with drought on lands managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior. These findings suggest that manager-defined social-ecological contexts are critically important to understand how drought is experienced across the landscape and the indices that are needed to inform adaptation and response strategies.

[Read the Press Release.](#)

[Learn More about this Study and the Findings](#)

Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Climate Resilience Program 2016 Funding Opportunity

The Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Climate Resilience Program has announced their Fiscal Year 2016 Climate Funding Opportunity to support tribal projects to address climate change adaptation (planning, workshops, and travel support), ocean and coastal management planning (and travel support), and capacity building and to provide youth internships (research, management, or youth engagement). Proposals are due May 23, 2016.

[View the Press Release.](#)

[Learn More.](#)

USDA Announces \$260 Million Available for Regional Conservation Partnership Program

USDA has announced the availability of up to \$260 million for partner proposals to improve the nation's water quality, combat drought, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat, and protect agricultural viability. The funding is being made available through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's innovative Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Pre-proposals are due May 10, 2016.

[View the Press Release.](#)

[Learn More about Applying.](#)

Other News

City Parks, Clean Water: Making Great Places Using Green Infrastructure

The Trust for the Public Land has released a report exploring the intersection of green infrastructure and parks. Using case studies, data tables, and interviews with national experts, the report explores both new and existing parks, including in-depth studies of water-smart parks in several cities. Parks have been capturing and cleaning stormwater, often unintentionally through vegetation and porous soils. But these spaces now offer win-win situations for cities to manage stormwater runoff while also meeting residents' recreation needs.

[Read the Full Report.](#)

2016 Stormwater Management Green Infrastructure Awards Program – Due May 17

The National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies has opened the competition for the 2016 Stormwater Management Green Infrastructure Awards Program. The program application calls for submission of the project description that includes a site plan or diagram and description of the project's environmental impact, economic impact, outreach efforts, results, maintenance (monitoring, upkeep, costs and reporting), and conclusion. Applications must be submitted by May 17, 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>