



**June 23, 2016**

*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**

- [Tools Launched to Promote Climate Adaptation in the Water Utilities Sector](#)
- [Climate Ready Estuaries Program Creates Interactive Companion Tool to Developing Risk-Based Adaptation Plans](#)
- [EPA Releases Hydrologic and Water Quality System \(HAWQS\) Beta](#)
- [First Grants Awarded under EPA's Healthy Watershed Consortium Grant Program](#)
- [WaterSense Celebrates 10th Anniversary](#)
- [Report Evaluates Urban Resilience to Climate Change: A Multi-Sector Approach – Public Comments Due July 21](#)
- ["Priorities for Managing Freshwater Resources in a Changing Climate" Released for Public Comment; Comments Due July 15; Webinar on June 27](#)
- [Application Period Opens for 2017 Climate Leadership Awards](#)
- [Report Shares Twelve Case Studies of Innovative Green Infrastructure Solutions for Downtowns and Infill Locations](#)

#### **Funding Opportunities**

- [EPA: Building the Capacity of Tribes to Address the Health Impacts of Climate Change Program – \\$600,000](#)
- [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program – \\$17 Million](#)
- [NOAA: Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency Grants Program – \\$8.5 Million](#)

#### **EPA News**

##### **Tools Launched to Promote Climate Adaptation in the Water Utilities Sector**

EPA's Climate Ready Water Utilities initiative has launched two tools: the "Adaptation Case Study and Information Exchange" and the "Workshop Planner for Climate Change and Extreme Events Adaptation." They promote a clear understanding of climate science and adaptation options by translating complex climate projections into understandable, actionable, localized information for the water sector (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater utilities). The Information Exchange gives water sector utilities an interactive platform to explore real-world climate adaptation case studies and encourages utilities to

connect with one another and share communities' adaptation strategies. The web-based Workshop Planner assists water sector stakeholders with conducting climate change adaptation workshops, helping utilities and communities explore and understand how more intense and frequent extreme weather events can affect water resources.

[Learn More and Access the Tools.](#)

[Read the Blog Post.](#)

### **Climate Ready Estuaries Program Creates Interactive Companion Tool to Developing Risk-Based Adaptation Plans**

EPA's Climate Ready Estuaries program has created an online companion tool for "Being Prepared for Climate Change: A Workbook for Developing Risk-Based Adaptation Plans." The workbook is a step-by-step guide for communities and other place-based organizations to develop risk-based climate change adaptation plans. This new interactive online companion tool takes users through the steps of creating a vulnerability assessment. The tool generates a consequence/probability matrix and formats a simple report. The purpose of the workbook and online companion tool is to help users reach an understanding of how climate change may affect their organization's goals.

[Learn More.](#)

### **EPA Releases Hydrologic and Water Quality System (HAWQS) Beta**

HAWQS is a web-based interactive water quantity and quality modeling system that expands EPA's repertoire of decision support tools. HAWQS simulates the effectiveness of management and policy options on hydrology and various water quality parameters, based on user-defined scenarios incorporating types of crops, soils, vegetation, land uses, and climate change. HAWQS provides users with interactive web interfaces and maps; pre-loaded input data; and outputs that include tables, charts, graphs, and raw output data. Prospective HAWQS beta testers should be individuals with education and experience with water modeling who can contribute to enhance the existing product. For questions, email:

[hawqs@epa.gov](mailto:hawqs@epa.gov).

[Access the Model.](#)

### **First Grants Awarded under EPA's Healthy Watershed Consortium Grant Program**

EPA and the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and are funding the first grants awarded under EPA's Healthy Watershed Consortium Grant Program. The nine awards totaling more than \$1.4 million will protect and improve land management of hundreds of thousands of acres of watersheds in seven states. The grants were awarded to help build the capacity of local organizations for sustainable, long-term watershed protection as well as new techniques and approaches that advance the state of practice for watershed protection.

[View the Press Release.](#)

### **WaterSense Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

This month marks the 10th anniversary of EPA's WaterSense program, which has helped save more than 1.5 trillion gallons of water and \$32.6 billion on American utility bills. Working with industry and other partners, American families and businesses can buy WaterSense-labeled products that use at least 20 percent less water and are independently certified to perform as well or better than standard models. Americans can choose from more than 16,000 available models of WaterSense-labeled products for bathrooms, commercial kitchens and irrigation systems. Homeowners and businesses can hire any of the 2,200 WaterSense certified irrigation professionals to help design, install, and maintain an irrigation system that delivers a healthy landscape while minimizing waste.

[View the Press Release.](#)

[Read the Blog Post.](#)

[Learn More.](#)

## **Report Evaluates Urban Resilience to Climate Change: A Multi-Sector Approach – Public Comments Due July 21**

The National Center for Environmental Assessment at EPA has released for public comment a draft document - "Evaluating Urban Resilience to Climate Change: A Multi-Sector Approach." This document describes an assessment tool that uses quantitative and qualitative indicators to help cities identify areas of resilience and vulnerability to climate change impacts. The report introduces example case studies from Washington, D.C. and Worcester, Massachusetts.

[Read the Full Report and Details on Submitting Comments.](#)

## **"Priorities for Managing Freshwater Resources in a Changing Climate" Released for Public Comment; Comments Due July 15; Webinar on June 27**

EPA and federal partners have released for public comment a draft update to the 2011 "National Action Plan: Priorities for Managing Freshwater Resources in a Changing Climate." The report reaffirms the importance of continuing to improve the Nation's ability to respond to the impacts of climate change on water resources. This report takes into consideration the recommendations of the State, Tribal, and Local Leaders Task Force; the Climate and Natural Resources Working Group; and the Advisory Committee on Water Information Climate Change Subcommittee. Recommendations are identified in the areas of: Data and Research, Planning and Decision Support, and Training and Outreach. The deadline for public comments is July 15, 2016.

[View the Draft Report and Details on Submitting Comments.](#)

[Join Us on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Eastern for a Webinar.](#)

## **Application Period Opens for 2017 Climate Leadership Awards**

The Climate Leadership Awards is a national awards program that recognizes and incentivizes exemplary corporate, organizational, and individual leadership in response to climate change. In 2012, the first-ever awards were presented to one individual and 20 organizations from across the U.S. who are leading the way in the management and reduction of greenhouse emissions. Now in its sixth year, the program has honored more than 100 recipients. The awards continue to highlight leadership in addressing climate change by reducing carbon pollution and implementing adaptation planning initiatives. 2016 awardees included the California Department of Water Resources.

[Learn More.](#)

## **Report Shares Twelve Case Studies of Innovative Green Infrastructure Solutions for Downtowns and Infill Locations**

The Smart Growth Program at EPA has published a collection of 12 case studies of projects across the country that showcase cities overcoming challenges to implementing green infrastructure. In these cases, space is at a premium and soil conditions are often unknown or unsuitable for infiltration. Each of the 12 communities demonstrate what is possible for managing stormwater, accommodating historic properties, planning for long-term maintenance, and implementing other valuable benefits.

[Read the Full Report.](#)

## **Funding Opportunities**

### **EPA: Building the Capacity of Tribes to Address the Health Impacts of Climate Change Program – \$600,000**

EPA is making available funding to increase tribal capacity to understand the health effects of climate change and plan for new and changing tribal community health needs as the climate changes. Proposals must address each of the following four areas: tribal climate and health curriculum development, refining the curriculum by conducting pilot trainings with select tribes, make curriculum available online, and conduct climate change and tribal health outreach. Applications Due: July 15, 2016.

[Learn More.](#)

[Apply Now.](#)

## **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program – \$17 Million**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced funding to acquire, restore, and enhance wetlands in coastal states through competitive matching grants to state agencies. Ranking criteria for proposals include describing how the proposed project addresses climate change concerns, how it will be affected by climate change impacts, and references to any relevant plans and models. Applications Due: June 29, 2016.

[Learn More.](#)

[Apply Now.](#)

## **NOAA: Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency Grants Program – \$8.5 Million**

NOAA has announced funding for projects that improve or restore coastal habitat by strengthening the resilience of U.S. marine and coastal ecosystems, decreasing the vulnerability of communities to extreme weather, and support sustainable fisheries. Projects should identify an issue limiting the resiliency of U.S. marine and coastal ecosystems to extreme weather events or changing environmental conditions, identify the proposed project's outcome, describe the actions and on-the-ground restoration to be undertaken to enhance resiliency and reduce risk, and describe the measurable impact on the ecosystem and communities. Applications Due: August 16, 2016.

[Learn More.](#)

[Apply Now.](#)

## **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](mailto: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>