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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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Stormwater Management in Response to Climate Change Impacts: Lessons from the Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes

EPA has released "Stormwater Management in Response to Climate Change Impacts: Lessons from the Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes Regions." This report shares insights from workshops that EPA and NOAA held with local planners on ways to further adopt climate change adaptation practices in stormwater management. The report assesses common challenges and opportunities across the Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes regions and provides examples of tools, data, methods, and actions that can be used to address climate change impacts. Recent efforts detail how climate change practitioners can more effectively work with communities.
Read the Full Report.

EPA Releases Clean Water State Revolving Fund Allotment Report

The "Review of the Allotment of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Report to Congress" presents the results of EPA's review of the current CWSRF allotment and its adequacy to address the water quality needs of eligible states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories.
Read the Full Report.

Templates for Developing Wetland Water Quality Standards

EPA and state water quality and wetland associations have partnered to develop an online tool, Templates for Wetland Water Quality Standards. The tool will assist States, territories, and authorized Tribes with developing protective and comprehensive narrative water quality standards for wetlands. States can use the tool to streamline the development of criteria to maintain the spatial and functional components of wetlands, which is important to effectively implement the Clean Water Act permitting programs and associated state and tribal certifications with respect to avoiding, reducing, and where appropriate, mitigating impacts to wetlands.
Learn More.

Other Federal News

White House Announces Public and Private Sector Efforts to Increase Community Resilience through Building Codes and Standards

Building codes set the baseline for the safe design and construction of our homes, schools, and workplaces. The impacts of climate change – including hotter temperatures, more extreme weather, sea level rise, and more severe drought – pose significant challenges for buildings and homes, many of which were not built to withstand the future impacts of climate change. The White House hosted a conference to highlight the critical role of building codes in furthering community resilience and the importance of incorporating resilience and the future impacts of climate change into the codes and standards development process. The Administration highlighted federal and private sector efforts aimed at advancing the principles of resilience in building codes, standards, and design.
Read the Fact Sheet.

DOI Presents First Climate Adaptation Leadership Award for Natural Resources

For raising awareness and addressing the impacts of climate change on America's natural resources, seven awardees were recently recognized as the first recipients of the Climate Adaption Leadership Award for Natural Resources. The new award recognizes the outstanding leadership by organizations and individuals who develop innovative approaches to prevent changes that are affecting wildlife and natural resources. The Department of the Interior established the award as part of the Administration's Priority Agenda for Enhancing the Climate Resilience of America's Natural Resources.
View the Press Release.

Dataset Helps Prioritize Coral Reefs Threatened by Bleaching

Coral reefs have been devastated by unprecedented bleaching over the past year. A new publicly available dataset may help prioritize coral reef management by showing which reefs are in the most immediate danger from climate change and should be the focus of preventative efforts. The dataset was developed by the United Nations Environmental Programme, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the World Wildlife Fund, and the Pacific Islands Climate Science Center. By downscaling global climate model projections, researchers were able to identify at what point in time severe bleaching conditions can be expected to happen twice per decade, and at what point they can be expected to happen annually—at which point recovery will be very difficult.
View the Press Release.
Access the Dataset.

USDA Announces $10.7 Million Available For Critical Water Research

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced $10.7 million in funding for research that could solve critical water problems in rural and agricultural watersheds. This funding is targeted towards projects that tackle critical water issues by developing both regional systems for the sustainable use and reuse of water and flow and management of water. It also addresses water issues focused on production and environmental sustainability efforts at the watershed and farm scale. There is also a focus on solutions for conserving higher quality water and understanding human behavior and its influence on decision making for agricultural water use.
Learn More.

USGS and NPS Release Study on Fighting Drought with Fire

The U.S. Geological Survey and National Park Service, supported by the Southwest Climate Science Center, have released a study showing that thinning forests with prescribed fire can reduce the effects of drought. This practice allows the remaining trees to have more water during periods of drought, increasing their likelihood of survival.
View the Press Release.
Read the Full Report.

Other News

Tampa Bay Blue Carbon Assessment Developed

The Tampa Bay Blue Carbon Assessment Summary of Findings includes locally collected carbon storage and sequestration rates for Tampa Bay coastal habitats including seagrass, salt marsh, salt barren, and mangrove habitats. The study also models the impacts of sea-level rise over the next 100 years and provides management recommendations for adaptation planning. The study finds that by the year 2100, seagrasses, marshes, and mangroves in Tampa Bay are expected to remove 74 million metric tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. This highlights the substantial contribution that Tampa Bay coastal habitats provide for capturing and storing carbon and provides new data to help local organizations understand how to help the Bay mitigate the effects of sea-level rise, while continuing to improve habitat health and its overall environmental and economic integrity. A July 7 webinar will present key findings.
View the Press Release.
Read the Full Report.
Register for the Webinar.

Colorado River Flows Reduced by Warmer Spring Temperatures

A recent study by the Southwest Climate Science Center uncovered the large contribution of warming temperature toward exacerbating drought conditions in the Colorado River Basin. After examining 100 years of records, researchers found that temperature played a bigger role than previously recognized in triggering several processes that reduce streamflow and worsen drought.
Learn More.

Drought Rewires Freshwater Food Web Interactions

While drought can deliver major blows to freshwater food webs via loss of key species, these systems may be able to reconfigure and recover, according to a new publication. Researchers used a network science approach to investigate the consequences of drought on stream food webs. Drought-simulated conditions triggered a “rewiring” of the interactions between species, creating new, stable food webs.
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