

**Maryland Commission on Climate Change
Adaptation and Response Working Group
2017-2018 Work Plan -- April 2018 Update**

PURPOSE

The Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC) is charged with advising the Governor and General Assembly on ways to mitigate the causes of, prepare for, and adapt to the consequences of climate change and maintaining and strengthening the state's existing Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (GHG Plan). The Commission is supported by a Steering Committee and for working groups. The Adaptation and Response Working Group (ARWG) is charged with developing a Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Maryland's Climate Change vulnerability. The Strategy includes both short- and long-term measures that State and local governments may undertake in planning for and adapting to diverse impacts of climate change.

Even as the state moves forward with actions that will reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) and ultimately result in increased energy efficiency, a more sustainable economy, and cleaner air; climate impacts will still be felt into the future. Therefore, adaptation, together with mitigation, is necessary to address climate change. The Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC) has charged the Adaptation and Response Working Group (ARWG) with implementing solutions for reducing Maryland's Climate Change vulnerability.

2017 PROGRESS

In early 2017 the ARWG developed a two-year work plan to guide ARWG efforts through the end of 2018. The 2017 MCCC Annual Report, published December 2017, outlines new priorities for the ARWG in 2018 that were not in the original 2017-2018 work plan. To address these new MCCC recommendations, this document provides an update to the 2017-2018 ARWG work plan, including specifics about progress made in 2017 and what the ARWG will be focusing on in 2018.

1. *Evaluating New Sea Level Rise Science:* Since the 2013 STWG report updates and the October 2016 STWG 6-pager, new literature, studies, data and other science have been issued. In 2018 the ARWG will work with the STWG to better understand the climate science that should be used in adaptation and communication efforts and work with ECO to incorporate this information into trainings, tools and all disseminated information (e.g. at Regional Adaptation Meetings).
2. *Broadening the Adaptation Scope:* (1) The ARWG continues to work with the Coast Smart Council on infrastructure siting and design criteria and also with its members to understand what areas beyond sea level rise and flooding could be advanced. Through this joint work, the groups proceeded with work to use the Coast Smart assessment and certificate to review proposed projects in non-coastal areas. (2) The ARWG staff worked with the Mid Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean on a report titled "Climate Change Vulnerabilities in the Mid-Atlantic Region." This report, prepared jointly by the Center for the Blue Economy of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey and the Marine Policy Center of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, highlights vulnerabilities to our marine transportation, fisheries and fishing communities, and ecosystem services. The findings of this report will be presented to the ARWG in 2018. (3) There still exists a need to define 'vulnerable populations' from the perspective of the MCCC and ARWG. In 2018 and beyond the ARWG will

work closely with the Steering Committee, other working groups and the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) to assist in defining vulnerability for ARWG efforts. In 2018, DNR will engage the CEJSC to discuss a working definition for “vulnerable populations” for the State Resiliency through Restoration program. Through this effort, the working definition will be presented to the ARWG to determine its utility at a broader scale or for additional programs and partnerships.

3. *Healthy Soils Initiative:* (1) In January 2018 the Maryland Department of Agriculture was awarded a \$1 million Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service to utilize and demonstrate a suite of soil health practices on Maryland farm fields. (2) In 2018, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources will continue exploring a partnership with the Harry Hughes Center to use department owned agricultural land to pilot implementation practices that increase the concentration of carbon in the soil. (3) On March 27, 2018 a “Healthy Soils Farm Visit and Roundtable Discussion” will be held to visit conventional and organic farm operations and discuss opportunities for soil carbon sequestration. This event is being sponsored by the ARWG, MDA, DNR, UMD Extension, the Alice Ferguson Foundation, Future Harvest and the Town Creek Foundation in direct response to initial 2017 meetings and conferences about “Healthy Soils” or “Carbon Farming.” These three initiatives will go a long way towards fulfilling the state’s Healthy Soils Initiative and improving natural resource management.
4. *Local Comprehensive Plan Adaptation Research:* The Maryland Department of Planning completed its first phase of comprehensive plan research on addressing climate issues and presented this work at the December 2017 ARWG meeting. The ARWG will use this review and information to guide the Regional Adaptation Meetings, discuss additional opportunities to extend such a review to other plans (e.g. Hazard Mitigation Plans) and Local Government Climate Academy work.
5. *Resilience Financing Stress Test:* In fall 2017 the Maryland Department of Natural Resources contracted with the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at the University of Maryland College Park to develop a Community Resilience Financing Tool. The tool will help communities determine the actions they can take to become more resilient to climate hazards as well as accelerate and scale the financing efforts needed to implement those projects. The City of Salisbury and the City of Annapolis have agreed to partner as the communities that will trial the tool once it is developed and have been given a resilience assessment and financing tool template as a starting point for engaging in the development process.
6. *Metrics for Tracking Progress:* Work is being undertaken by the Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Resiliency Workgroup to develop indicators of adaptation. ARWG members are engaged in this effort to determine if this work and/or the indicators could be relevant to the ARWG. Staff will coordinate with Chesapeake Bay Program staff in 2018 to hold future discussion about these resilience indicators. In addition, MDP will continue to track progress on the integration of coastal resilience components in comprehensive plans and hazard mitigation plans.
7. *Georgetown Climate Center Recommendations:* The ARWG will be exploring with the other working groups the value of a research agenda, a GCC recommendation that was included in the MCCC

Annual Report. Additional clarity on the interest of a research agenda from the MCCC/Steering Committee will be sought in 2018.

2018 PRIORITIES

In addition to continuing the progress on the ARWG priorities listed above from the 2017-2018 work plan, the ARWG will also be undertaking the following in 2018:

8. *Regional Adaptation Meetings*: In the 2017 Annual Report the MCCC added an additional recommendation for the ARWG to “convene regional meetings by the end of 2018 to solicit local and regional climate adaptation priorities and support local adaptation efforts.” The ARWG began to discuss this goal at the December 2017 meeting, and since then a Planning Committee has formed and will work diligently to achieve this goal in 2018. Two meeting options were discussed and vetted at the March 2018 meeting.
9. *Local Government Climate Academy*: The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has partnered with the Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO) to develop and deliver a competency framework and climate change training for local governments. Throughout 2018, ACCO, DNR and the ARWG will be working to develop training modules specific to the needs and issues facing Maryland’s local communities. Staff will explore opportunities with the ARWG to deliver climate resources and training through the development of the Local Government Climate Academy.
10. *Reviewing Phase I and II Comprehensive Strategy*: In 2018 the ARWG will review its Phase I and II Comprehensive Strategy recommendations to identify progress, highlight any gaps or needs, and consider revising as needed.

ARWG Meeting Schedule for 2018
 March 2018 Draft - items in *italics* are draft or proposed

Date/Time	Location	Agenda Topics
Throughout 2018	Throughout Maryland	Regional outreach efforts being hosted by various ARWG members across Maryland (e.g. MHT, MDP, MDH, MDE, ESCAP, DNR)
March 12 2 to 4 pm	DNR (Tawes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Adaptation Meetings - Climate Change impacts on the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and potential roles/opportunities for the ARWG input - 2018 Work Plan
March 27	Queen Anne	Healthy Soils Farm Visit and Roundtable Discussion
April 24	MDE	Maryland Commission on Climate Change Meeting
May 7 2 to 4 pm	DNR (Tawes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate & Health - <i>Presentation: Climate Change Vulnerabilities in the Coastal Mid-Atlantic Region</i> - <i>Presentation: Insurance Industry Adaptation</i> - 2018 Annual Report recommendations discussion
May 18	Williamsport	Williamsport Spring 2018 Regional WIP Meeting
May 21-23	Cambridge	State of the Coast conference (May 21-23) featuring “resilient communities” highlights and sessions. Day 1 will feature ACCO climate academy training (<i>by invitation</i>).
June 19	MDE	Maryland Commission on Climate Change Meeting
June 5	Catonsville	Spring 2018 Regional WIP Meeting
June 14	Salisbury	Spring 2018 Regional WIP Meeting
June 15	Easton	Spring 2018 Regional WIP Meeting
June 19	TBA location in Southern Maryland	(<i>tentative</i>) Spring 2018 Regional WIP Meeting
July 30 10 am to 12 pm	DNR (Tawes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Adaptation Meetings Update - Finalize 2018 Annual Report recommendations - Finalizing report chapters
August 15-18	Ocean City	Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Summer Conference
September 18	MDE	Maryland Commission on Climate Change Meeting
October 23	MDE	Maryland Commission on Climate Change Meeting
October 10-12	Annapolis	Maryland Municipal League (MML) Fall Conference
November 7	MDE	Maryland Commission on Climate Change Meeting
December 3 2 to 4 pm	DNR (Tawes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MARISA project highlight that is working to downscale precipitation. - Work Plan development

Appendix A
ARWG Membership Roster -- Updated 3/1/2018

ARWG Chair: Mark Belton, Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

ARWG Coordinators: Catherine McCall, Kim Hernandez, Department of Natural Resources*

Maryland Commission on Climate Change Liaison: C. Richard D'Amato, Retired Attorney

House Delegate Member: Dana Stein, Maryland General Assembly

Public Sector Representatives

Brian Ambrette, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy*

Fredrika Moser, Maryland Sea Grant

Eric Myers, The Conservation Fund

State-Agency Adaptation Sector Leads

Catherine McCall, Department of Natural Resources on Coastal Hazards

Clifford Mitchell, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on Health*

Susan Payne, Department of Agriculture on Agriculture

Bruce Michael, Department of Natural Resources on Bay and Aquatic

Don Van Hassent, Department of Natural Resources on Forest and Terrestrial

Jason Dubow, Department of Planning on Growth and Infrastructure*

Sandy Hertz, Department of Transportation on Transportation Growth and Infrastructure

Gary Setzer, Department of Environment on Water Resources

Chas Eby, Maryland Emergency Management Agency on Emergency Management

Technical Advisors

Katherine Charbonneau, Critical Area Commission

Matthew Fleming, Department of Natural Resources

Megan Granato, Department of Natural Resources

Sasha Land, Department of Natural Resources*

Matt Rowe, Department of the Environment

Scott Zarcharko, Department of the Environment

Kevin Wagner, Department of the Environment

Nell Ziehl, Department of Planning - Maryland Historical Trust*

Lisa Lowe, Department of Information Technology

Fiona Burns, Department of Budget and Management

Shawn Kiernan, Maryland Port Administration

Elizabeth Habic, Department of Transportation - State Highway Administration*

Joy Hatchette, Maryland Insurance Administration

JaLeesa Tate, Maryland Emergency Management Agency

Andrew Asgarali-Hoffman, Maryland Emergency Management Agency

* Denotes member of the Regional Adaptation Meetings Planning Committee. In addition to these individuals, Debbie Herr-Cornwell (MDP), Allison Gost (MDH), Jill Lemke (MDOT MPA), and David Costello (IEER) also participate on the planning committee.