

Next Generation Adaptation Plan Priorities

This document contains tables for each of the Next Gen sector and focus group priorities. The highlighted and underlined “Investment Needed” priority is the one the group intends to bring in front of ARWG for discussion during the upcoming 5/31 meeting. Italicized priorities indicate the group will be meeting once more before official consensus is reached.. Please come prepared to the meeting with ideas to discuss for the highlighted priorities. Specifically, members should be identifying major concerns, glaring omissions, or ways to leverage actions across multiple priorities and additional work plan efforts.

Feel free to use this document to add comments on any of the priorities listed. You may also send me comments via email (ryland.taylor@maryland.gov) and I will pass them on to the relevant sector and focus group co-leads.

Climate Jobs and Training	
Resource Ready	Investment Needed
Retraining: connect job seekers and Maryland companies with state grants and training resources (e.g. EARN grant, Partnership for Workforce Quality, etc) with targeted engagement to underserved and overburdened communities.	Training/education for entry level, other job seekers, and existing employees to connect them with state-level resources, grants, and training opportunities focused on climate adaptation.
Training: Continue investing in early career training programs that enhance adaptation and incorporate climate resilience into K-12, higher educational, and professional curriculum requirements.	<u>Target a “No Net Job Loss” goal where various economic sectors (e.g. manufacturing, food service, agriculture, fisheries, energy production) emerge or transform to support climate adaptation.</u>
New Industry Development: Continue, refine and expand grant programs and accelerator programs to reflect industry needs for adaptation and increased resilience.	Outreach for mid-career job seekers to connect them with state resources, grants, and retraining opportunities.

Water Resources	
Resource Ready	Investment Needed
<p>Water Quality: Through routine evaluations integrate emerging research, monitoring and positive equity analysis results into policies, programs and permits to improve Maryland’s response to the impacts of climate change on water resource quality. During evaluations identify gaps to inform upcoming research and monitoring, creating a feedback loop.</p>	<p><u>Water Supply: Proactively adjust water supply management practices and programs to account for climate change impacts to both water supply availability and source water quality. Address risks due to drought, heat-induced increases in water demand, sea level rise, storm surges, flooding, and severe weather. Ensure adequate state staffing levels to manage these risks by supporting local hazard management planning, focusing on historically underserved communities.</u></p>
<p>Water Hazards: Facilitate/Refine statewide and local climate vulnerability assessments, starting with the most underserved and overburdened communities. Incorporate future climate change scenarios into state and local hazard mitigation and action plans. Assessments should consider water-related hazards as well as drought, and make connections to non-water-related stressors. Prioritize resilience-building actions to mitigate water-based hazards while integrating multiple goals.</p>	
<p>Inter-Agency Funding Coordination: Establish a multi-agency task force within ARWG to coordinate funding resources to support the water sector’s goals, working in collaboration with other ARWG sector groups, to expedite the process and identify mutual opportunities. Manage funds to create a robust project portfolio when securing federal planning and capital funds. Prioritize projects in underserved and overburdened communities, with preference for grants, as opposed to loans. Facilitate technical support for grant</p>	

proposal development, funds administration, and project management for underserved communities.

Human Health

Resource Ready

Investment Needed

Improve the availability, quality, and access to green spaces in at least three communities, utilizing available health data and expertise at the state and local level to support green space programming.

Develop a Maryland specific Health Impact Assessment (HIA) process that expands from the standard HIA process to be inclusive of climate and equity considerations.

Establish the Maryland Department of Health as a full member of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change.

MDH works with a university partner to update the Maryland Climate and Health Profile Report (CHRP) every five years to identify and analyze climate impacts on health, including forecasting anticipated disease burden using updated climate change projections.

Convene an expert workgroup to assess existing climate and health education and communication capacity in the state. Then establish a communication protocol that includes best practices for communicating climate and health risk, vulnerabilities, and adaptation opportunities, with attention paid to impacts on underserved or overburdened communities.

MDH creates an expanded surveillance program through the State's Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) Program to display data on direct and indirect health impacts attributable to climate change.

Critical Infrastructure	
Resource Ready	Investment Needed
	Within four years, compile and publish a comprehensive critical infrastructure inventory with ownership identified.
	<u>Select, test, and apply an AMAP Framework to be used statewide to inform planning studies, capital improvement programs, systems risk assessment and management, and flexibility to maximize infrastructure life cycles.</u>
	Within seven years, outline a plan for integrating the AMAP framework into their capital improvement planning and resilience-based programs.

Natural Resources & Ecosystems	
Resource Ready	Investment Needed
Update and prioritize conservation and restoration targets (e.g. TEAs, oyster reefs, endangered and listed species). Set numeric goals to address significant vulnerabilities or changes and facilitate climate migration by utilizing the latest information and climate science about habitat vulnerability and migration, and species shifts.	Develop data, tools and protocols that allow resource managers across the state to more cohesively understand, plan for and respond to changing conditions and impacts, including more quickly addressing invasive species concerns.
Develop adaptation implementation plans and policies for resource management issues that would benefit from inter-agency coordination to accelerate adaptation (e.g. wetland migration, dredged material management, upland wildlife habitat management).	<u>Identify and incorporate new natural resource and ecosystem focus areas into comprehensive, hazard mitigation, nuisance flood, and other local planning documents to afford more protection.</u>

<p>Support and utilize capacity building or circuit-riders for small communities that don't have staff to apply for grants or manage projects.</p>	<p>Support capacity building to emphasize the benefits of natural spaces, engaging through open space and recreation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assess and support capacity building needs for community-based organizations and work with them to emphasize the benefits of natural spaces to communities (less stress, recreational, cleaner air, etc.). b. Work with community partners, family and student groups, and neighborhood associations to conserve and restore natural resources and ecosystems and reduce climate risks.
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Working Lands & Natural Resources-Based Economies	
Resource Ready	Investment Needed
<p>Within three years, form a plan for addressing land retention and aquatic habitat changes that is equitable, inclusive of interests and addresses issues of all affected farmers, foresters, landowners, and watermen in the state.</p>	<p>Adopt Climate Smart agriculture and forestry statewide by utilizing ecosystem marketplaces.</p>
<p>Explore opportunities to develop new markets emerging for agriculture, forestry, and fisheries as a result of climate impacts, and saltwater intrusion. Consider recreation as a non-traditional market.</p>	<p><u>State agencies and Soil Conservation Districts expand partnerships and research, and explore and implement ways to make farming, forestry, and fishing more attractive to youth and others and eliminate structural barriers to increase the diversity of resources-based industries in Maryland.</u></p>
<p>Farmers across the state increase their adoption of soil health and conservation practices beyond cover cropping and conservation tillage to improve soil health, sequester carbon, and help meet goals outlined in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act.</p>	<p>Encourage innovation and adoption of new technologies to enable farmers, foresters, landowners, and watermen to increase sustainability and resiliency of operations.</p>

Local Government	
Resource Ready	Investment Needed
<p>The ARWG provides a web-based toolkit of capacity-building tools, resources, grant opportunities, training, etc. to assist local partners.</p> <p>Include resources from state and federal governments as well as from NGOs and private grant-making organizations. Address all climate change impacts, including sea level rise, coastal storms, salinization, increasing temperatures, and changing precipitation patterns. Provide the toolkit as part of the Online adaptation hub to be developed through cross-framework priority #1.</p>	<p><u>Work with local governments to identify and develop a greater understanding of climate impacts, and then respond to those impacts, prioritizing local governments with capacity needs.</u></p>
<p>Initiate a strong educational outreach campaign to build local support for bold, sustained, equitable climate adaptation action. Consider focusing messages on the cost of inaction in terms of health, fiscal impacts, and local economy and jobs using local examples, visualization and trusted messengers.</p>	

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion	
Resource Ready	Investment Needed
<p><i>Build equitable representation into governance.</i></p>	<p><u>Improve decision-making processes for funding programs to prioritize investment in underserved and overburdened communities.</u></p>
<p><i>Develop and implement a comprehensive communications and engagement strategy that resonates with residents and aligns with community needs.</i></p>	<p><i>Commit resources to develop working relationships, information exchange, and trust between agencies and underserved and overburdened communities affected by climate adaptation planning and implementation processes.</i></p>

Ensure that state agencies are aligned in centering the environment and climate impacts on underserved communities.

Identify patterns and legacies of structural disinvestment and obstacles to access for underserved and overburdened communities.