

## Adaptation and Resiliency Working Group 2021 Recommendations October 20, 2020

- 1) ***Adaptation Indicators and Report Card.*** In 2021, ARWG will work with UMCES to finalize the Maryland Coastal Adaptation Report Card. Once complete, ARWG will work with ECO to develop a communications outreach strategy to effectively communicate to all climate stakeholders the existence of the report card. ARWG and its partners will identify where best to integrate the identified indicators and report card findings into programming to help further the goals of the State of Maryland and the MCCC. (Requested by MCCC in 2019, completion in 2021).
- 2) ***Evaluate and Update the State's Adaptation Strategy.*** Building on the efforts initiated in 2020, ARWG and partners will continue development of a framework to guide the state's adaptation efforts. The framework will guide and prioritize action over the next ten years, specifically in vulnerable and underserved communities. The approach includes five sectors (water resources, human health, natural and working lands, natural resources and protecting critical infrastructure) as well as three cross-cutting focus areas (environmental justice, climate jobs and training, and state service delivery and local government) to ensure the strategy is comprehensive and integrated. (Requested by MCCC in 2019, completion in 2021).
- 3) ***Water Quality and Climate Change Resiliency Portfolio:*** ARWG will continue to support the State's effort to develop a long term portfolio of natural infrastructure projects that optimize water quality, living resources, GHG reduction, and other health and environmental benefits in coastal and estuarine shorelines. ARWG will work to finalize the portfolio and implement the approach across funding opportunities as they become available. (Identified in the State's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan, completion in 2021).
- 4) ***Advance Saltwater Intrusion Plan Recommendations.*** Continue to advance saltwater intrusion plan recommendations. Convene meetings of subject matter experts, disseminate information and support projects that facilitate implementation of *Maryland's Plan to Adapt to Saltwater Intrusion and Salinization*. The ARWG will receive periodic updates from Planning regarding this effort and will provide guidance to Planning and other state agencies on how to increase or expedite plan implementation" (Suggested by MDP)
- 5) ***Maryland's Climate Leadership Academy:*** ARWG and partners will continue to foster a community of climate-smart local government and infrastructure leaders through the participation in and promotion of the Maryland Climate Leadership Academy. ARWG will work

with members of the Education, Communications and Outreach Workgroup to identify content for the online learning lab and short courses to help advance MCCC goals and initiatives (e.g. MEA specific training, MDH specific training, Coast Smart guidance on new program update) . Efforts will be directed to developing a “short course” on identified sector specific training. Relevant climate trainings identified by ARWG, MCCC and partners will be developed for deployment through the Climate Leadership Academy (Suggested by DNR)

6) ***Environmental and Climate Justice:*** ARWG will work alongside other workgroups and the Commission to thoroughly and meaningfully integrate environmental justice considerations and action steps into all programming and initiatives. ARWG will look to expertise and partnership with the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) to advise and ensure vulnerable, underserved and under-resourced communities are given the assistance needed to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change. (Requested by MCCC in 2020)

For questions or comments related to the ARWG recommendations, please contact ARWG Coordinator Allison Breitenother at [allison.breitenother@maryland.gov](mailto:allison.breitenother@maryland.gov)

