

Below and attached are updates from the August meeting of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change along with other relevant climate-related information. Please feel free to pass this information along to your peers, staff, and interested community members.

Adapting to Saltwater Intrusion

The Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill 1350 / Senate Bill 1006 in July 2018, which directs MDP to establish a plan to adapt to saltwater intrusion by December 15, 2019. MDP initiated a work group of state agency and subject matter experts in 2018 and work has continued in 2019. MDP's draft plan is included as an attachment to this email and county officials are invited to comment. The deadline for comments is September 13th. Please submit comments to Jason Dubow, Maryland Department of Planning, Jason.Dubow@Maryland.gov, (410) 767-3370.

Legislative amendments this year also require that on or before October 1, 2019 the state shall develop and publish guidance to assist local jurisdictions in the collection of data to establish nuisance flooding baselines. DNR is leading the effort to develop guidance on the nuisance flooding plans.

University of Maryland Working with Counties to Develop Resiliency Plans

The University of Maryland Center for Global Sustainability is working with four Maryland Counties (Anne Arundel, Charles, Queen Anne's and perhaps others) on a project called Resiliency Planning and Financing for Maryland Counties, the goal of which is to develop Resilience Action Plans to establish planning and financing systems in pursuit of climate change resilience. The effort will include elements such as:

- * The essential role of multi-community collaboration and coordination.
- * Ensuring resilience efforts address needs of the most vulnerable populations.
- * Integrating resilience planning into every aspect of local government operations.
- * Approaching resiliency as a community asset rather than an obligation.
- * Addressing the limitation of fiscal resources and understanding how to prioritize actions among multiple departments and stakeholders.
- * Aligning priorities and resources with community goals to jumpstart the resiliency process.

For questions and comments, please contact Joanne Throwe, Senior Fellow, University of Maryland Center for Global Sustainability, at jthrowe@umd.edu or (401) 429-3845.

Maryland Climate Leadership Academy Fall Program Offerings

The Maryland Climate Leadership Academy is the nation's first state-sponsored institution providing continuing education and executive training programs specifically designed for state and local government officials, infrastructure executives and business leaders. The deadline has been extended for Fall program offerings until August 31st, but is dependent upon space availability, at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore (Sept 12 and 13, Nov 4 and 5, and December 16 and 17) and at the College of Southern Maryland in La Plata (Oct 1 and 2, Nov 14 and 15, and Dec 18 and 19). Additionally, a one-day course specifically designed for elected officials is being developed and is expected to roll out this Fall. For more information and to enroll, please use the link below. <https://www.mdclimateacademy.org/programs-ccp>

Maryland Sea Level Rise Projections

Projecting sea level rise for Maryland was mandated by the Maryland Commission on Climate Change Act of 2015. The Act specifically requires that "the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science [UMCES] shall establish science-based sea-level rise projections for Maryland's coastal areas and update them at least every 5 years." The Act further specifies that these projections shall include maps that indicate the areas of the state that may be most affected by storm surges, flooding, and extreme weather events, and shall be made publicly available on the Internet. You can find the most recent five-year report (2018) at this link.

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Air/ClimateChange/MCCC/Documents/Sea-LevelRiseProjectionsMaryland2018.pdf>

DBM Letter to State Agencies Regarding Electric Vehicle Purchase Goals

The state of Maryland has mandated the inclusion of electric-based vehicles into the State's fleet with the eventual goal of transitioning the Fleet to 25% electric-based vehicles by 2025. The attached letter outlines the plan and mandates justification for purchases of vehicles that are not electric-based.

Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) Update

The attached presentation was given to the MCCC during their August meeting by MDoT representatives. It outlines a "Cap and Invest" program, similar to RGGI, being explored by 12 states and the District of Columbia. Currently, TCI reductions are not included in Maryland's GGRA draft plan as the concept is still under development.

Recent Articles Germane to County Governments and the Topic of Climate Change: Climate Change Becomes an Issue for Rating Agencies

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/04082019/climate-change-ratings-agencies-financial-risk-cities-companies>

Extreme Climate Change Has Arrived in America

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/national/climate-environment/climate-change-america/>

With nowhere to hide from rising seas, Boston prepares for a wetter future

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/boston-adapting-rising-sea-level-coastal-flooding>

A Coastal Town Pummeled by Climate Change Prepares for the Future

<https://www.governing.com/topics/transportation-infrastructure/sl-dare-county-climate-change.html>

Phoenix Tries To Reverse Its 'Silent Storm' Of Heat Deaths

<https://www.npr.org/2018/07/09/624643780/phoenix-tries-to-reverse-its-silent-storm-of-heat-deaths>