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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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EPA News

EPA Releases 2016 Climate Change Indicators Report

EPA recently released a report that shows compelling and clear evidence of long-term changes to our climate and highlights impacts on human health and the environment in the United States and around the world. The report, "Climate Change Indicators in the United States," features observed trend data on 37 climate indicators, including U.S and global temperatures, ocean acidity, sea level, river flooding, droughts, and wildfires.

[Read the Full Report.](#)

EPA Leads New Effort to Improve America’s Aging Infrastructure

Safe drinking water and effective wastewater management are basic building blocks of public health. We need to invest in America’s water infrastructure, especially in disadvantaged communities. For years our nation’s investments in water and wastewater infrastructure weren’t keeping up with the needs—which EPA estimates at \$655 billion over the next 20 years. To fix the problem, we’ll not only need innovative financing to leverage more investment, but we’ll also need to help these communities build capacity—so they can sustainably manage and operate their water systems, get access to those funds, and put them to good use.

[Read the Blog.](#)

[Learn More about EPA’s Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center.](#)

EPA Announces Fifth Annual Campus RainWorks Challenge

EPA announces the fifth annual Campus RainWorks Challenge prize competition that asks student teams to design green infrastructure for their campus. This year, teams will incorporate climate resiliency and consider community engagement in their stormwater management designs. Students will form teams with a faculty advisor to submit in either the master plan or demonstration project categories. Registration for this year’s competition will be open from September 1-30, 2016. Submissions for this year’s competition will be due December 16, 2016, and winners will be announced in Spring 2017.

[Learn More.](#)

Webcast on EPA Hydrologic and Water Quality System (HAWQS) Beta Modeling System – August 16

EPA recently released the Hydrologic and Water Quality Systems (HAWQS) Beta Modeling System and will demonstrate its key features in a webcast. The webcast will provide an overview of HAWQS and a demonstration of a specific watershed modeling use case. HAWQS is a web-based interactive water quantity and quality modeling system that expands EPA’s repertoire of decision support tools. It simulates the effectiveness of management and policy options on hydrology and various water quality parameters, based on user-defined scenarios incorporating types of crops, soils, vegetation, land uses, and climate change. HAWQS provides users with interactive web interfaces and maps; pre-loaded input data; and outputs that include tables, charts, graphs, and raw output data. Webcast will be on August 16, 2016, 2:00 – 4:00 pm eastern.

[Register for the Webcast.](#)

Federal News

Using Climate Impacts to Strengthen Decision Making

The White House is taking action by putting forth guidance that reflects the commitment to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions while becoming more resilient to the effects of climate change. The “Final Guidance on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change in National Environmental Policy Act Reviews” formally recognizes how the federal government’s actions contribute to climate change; promotes consideration of these impacts and alternatives to mitigate them; identifies opportunities to build climate resilience; and helps agencies make informed decisions through a transparent process.

[Read the Final Guidance.](#)

[Read the Fact Sheet.](#)

New Statistically Downscaled Climate Data for the Conterminous U.S.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has released a new statistically downscaled climate model dataset covering the conterminous U.S. It is now available for download in the USGS GeoData Portal. This dataset contains daily downscaled meteorological and hydrological projections for the conterminous U.S. at 4-km resolution.

[Learn More.](#)

NOAA Releases 2015 State of the Climate Report

The “State of the Climate in 2015” report, compiled by more than 450 scientists from 62 countries, confirmed that 2015 surpassed 2014 as the warmest year since at least the mid-to-late 19th century. The record heat resulted from the combined influence of long-term global warming and one of the strongest El Niño events the globe has experienced since at least 1950. Most indicators of climate change continued to reflect trends consistent with a warming planet. Several markers, such as land and ocean temperatures, sea levels, and greenhouse gases, broke records set just one year prior.

[View the Press Release.](#)

[Report Highlights.](#)

[Read the Full Report.](#)

Other News

Report Published on Engaging the Public on Sea Level Rise and Inundation

A new report published in the “Environmental Science and Policy” journal explores public perceptions of sea level rise risks and the use of deliberation to facilitate community-based decision-making in Maryland. The results suggest that small-group deliberation that is focused on local problem-solving may be an effective tool for reducing the polarizing effects of cultural worldviews on decision-making.

[Read the Full Report.](#)

National Weather Center Survey on Heavy Rainfall

Scientists working at the National Weather Center in Norman, Oklahoma are studying heavy rainfall events, which pose significant societal, economical, and environmental threats. They are seeking input from key decision-makers who use climate and precipitation products in their occupations. If you are interested in helping improve their research objectives, please use the following link to take the survey. The survey asks questions about your use of precipitation products and the impacts of heavy rainfall in your area. Deadline: August 12, 2016.

[Take the Survey.](#)

New Georgetown Climate Center Adaptation Clearinghouse

The Georgetown Climate Center's Adaptation Clearinghouse was re-launched with a new design and new tools to assist state policymakers, resource managers, academics, and others who are working to help communities adapt to climate change.

[Check Out the Updated Site.](#)

Drought and Equity in the San Francisco Bay Area

California's ongoing drought has wide-reaching impacts, from how we grow crops to the price of electricity. Often overlooked is the drought's impact on low-income communities. This report from the Pacific Institute examines these impacts in the San Francisco Bay Area and offers potential solutions.

[Read the Full Report.](#)

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>