

CLIMATE CHANGE

**Some of the regulatory summaries referenced from U.S. Northern Review publication.

STATE

FINAL:

SB 323 REAUTHORIZATION OF GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT SB 323 (Public Law: 11) repeals the termination date of the current requirement to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 25 percent from 2006 levels by 2020. The bill requires the state to develop plans, adopt regulations, and implement programs to reduce GHG emissions by 40 percent from 2006 levels by 2030. Finally, the bill requires the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) to submit a report by 1 OCT 22, and every five years thereafter, on the progress toward achieving the 2030 GHG emissions reduction goal and the reductions needed by 2050 to avoid specified climate changes. The bill was signed by the governor on 4 APR 16 and became effective on 1 OCT 16.

FEDERAL

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NEPA CLIMATE CHANGE GUIDANCE. On 1 AUG 16, the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) issued [final guidance](#) to federal agencies considering the effects of GHG emissions and climate change when evaluating proposed federal actions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and CEQ's [Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA](#). CEQ issued the guidance to provide greater clarity and consistency in how agencies should address climate change in their environmental impact assessment processes.

OTHER:

CLIMATE-READY ESTUARIES The USEPA Climate-Ready Estuaries (CRE) program has added sea-level rise resources to its [website](#). The CRE program works with the [National Estuary Program](#) and the coastal management community to assess climate change vulnerabilities, develop and implement adaptation strategies, and engage and educate stakeholders.

GUIDE FOR CONSIDERING CLIMATE CHANGE IN COASTAL CONSERVATION The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released a [new guide](#) providing a step-by-step approach for incorporating climate change information into new or existing conservation plans. The guide's six steps draw from existing strategic conservation planning frameworks but focus on climate considerations and key resources specifically relevant to the coastal environment, including coastal watersheds.

CLIMATE EXPLORER ADDS LOCAL CLIMATE PROJECTIONS NOAA's [newly updated](#) Climate Explorer offers downloadable maps, graphs, and data tables of observed and projected temperature, precipitation, and climate-related variables dating back to 1950 and projected to 2100. Built to accompany the [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#), [Climate Explorer](#) can help community leaders, business owners, municipal planners, and utility and resource managers understand how environmental conditions may change over the next several decades.

CLIMATE CHANGE INDICATORS REPORT. USEPA has [released](#) the 2016 edition of Climate Change Indicators, which includes seven new indicators and a feature on climate and health. The report presents a total of 37 indicators, each describing trends related to the causes and effects of climate change. The report focuses primarily on the U.S., but in some cases global trends are presented to provide context or a basis for comparison. The [online version](#) will be updated periodically as new data become available, and thus may differ from the [print version](#).

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STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS: LESSONS FROM CHESAPEAKE BAY AND GREAT LAKES REGIONS USEPA announced the availability of the final report, Stormwater Management in Response to Climate Change Impacts: Lessons from the Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes Regions! (81 FR 31633), which describes insights from USEPA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) sponsored workshops with communities in the Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes regions to address climate change in stormwater adaptation efforts.

USEPA CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOMPLISHMENTS USEPA released its 2015 Highlights of Progress: Responses to Climate Change report. The report summarizes major climate change-related USEPA accomplishments of its national and regional water programs during 2015. The highlights were broken down across six vision areas: Water Infrastructure, Watersheds and Wetlands, Coastal and Ocean Waters, Water Quality, Working with Tribes, and Cross-cutting Program Support.

PROPOSED:

EVALUATING URBAN RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE: A MULTI-SECTOR APPROACH USEPA released the draft document, Evaluating Urban Resilience to Climate Change: A Multi-Sector Approach (81 FR 40302). USEPA scientists and their collaborators created an assessment tool to help cities identify climate change risks in eight different municipal sectors.

GHG REPORTING RULE USEPA issued a proposed rule amending the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reporting rule (81 FR 2535).

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND SINKS The Draft Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2014 is available for review (81 FR 8713). For more information about the draft report, click [here](#).

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