

Climate Change

State

[HB 514 \(SB 258\)](#) establishes the Commission on Climate Change within MDE to advise the governor and general assembly on ways to mitigate the causes of, prepare for, and adapt to the consequences of climate change. The bill provides for the membership, chair, and staff of the commission. The bill also requires the commission to convene specified working groups and develops required actions for each group to study or undertake. The bill was signed by the governor on May 12, 2015, and became effective on June 1, 2015.

Federal

USEPA issued a direct final rule amending the federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) regulations to provide a mechanism for USEPA and delegated reviewing authorities to rescind certain PSD permits issued under Step 2 of the PSD and Title V greenhouse gas (GHG) Tailoring Rule ([80 FR 26183](#)). Court decisions determined that Step 2 of the Tailoring Rule was not required under CAA and vacated the USEPA regulations implementing Step 2. The direct final rule became effective on July 6, 2015.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced it will approve [disaster preparedness funds](#) only for states whose governors approve hazard mitigation plans that address climate change. Beginning in March 2016, states seeking preparedness money will have to assess how climate change threatens their communities. Governors will have to sign off on hazard mitigation plans. States are required to update their plans every five years to be eligible for the agency's mitigation funding.

The USEPA released a report, [Climate Change in the United States: Benefits of Global Action](#), which examines how future impacts and damages of climate change across a number of sectors in the United States can be avoided or reduced with global action.

As part of President Obama's Climate Action Plan [Virtual Climate Resilience Toolkit](#), USEPA released the Climate Adjustment Tool for USEPA's Stormwater Management Model. The Climate Adjustment Tool allows engineers and planners to evaluate performance of water infrastructure while considering future climate change projections, such as more frequent high-intensity storms and changes in evaporation rates of seasonal precipitation, to determine benefits of resiliency decisions to reduce local economic burden and protect communities.