

The New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance

Preparing for the Impacts of Climate Change in New Jersey

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The New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance is a diverse network of businesses NGOs, academic institutions, and government agencies that was convened to enhance New Jersey's capacity to prepare for and adapt to a changing climate. Through demonstration projects, outreach and education, engagement of partners and public policy research, the Alliance helps to advance important efforts to ensure that New Jersey's people, places and assets are prepared for the conditions of a changing climate. You can learn more about the New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance at <http://njadapt.rutgers.edu>.

Climate Change Impacts in New Jersey

As a densely populated coastal state with aging infrastructure and housing stock, New Jersey is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Climate change is expected to result in:

- rising temperatures in all seasons but more noticeable in the summers;
- increases in the number of high heat days;
- heavier precipitation events;
- increased inland flooding,
- rising sea levels,;
- increased coastal flooding;
- warming of coastal waters.

A changing climate will have a substantial impact on New Jersey's economy, our communities, the health of our residents, the state's natural resources, and the extensive

infrastructure system that delivers transportation services, energy and clean water to 8.7 million New Jerseyans.

Examples of impacts that New Jersey may experience include:

- Increased health risks for the elderly and young children;
- Stresses to rail lines and major roadways;
- Damage to crops from flooding or increased pests and disease;
- Power outages;
- Coastal erosion and impacts to tourism;
- Changes in fisheries populations;
- Water quality degradation and water supply fluctuations;
- Changes in the character and composition of forests.

Alliance Mission

The New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance is focused on building climate change adaptation capacity in New Jersey in key impacted sectors: agriculture, built infrastructure (energy, transportation and telecommunications); coastal communities; natural resources; public health; and water resources. Additionally, the Alliance has a strong focus on identifying those populations that are most vulnerable to a changing climate such as people living in urban settings coastal communities and along inland waterways, people with limited English Proficiency and people with limited financial resources, senior citizens and people that are mobility challenged.

The Alliance focuses its efforts in several areas:

- Conducting outreach and education involving the general public, decision-makers, practitioners and stakeholders, including maintaining an directory of climate change adaptation activities in New Jersey;
- Developing recommendations for state and local policies and programs through collaboration with stakeholders in relevant sectors and decision-makers at the state, federal and local levels;
- Undertaking demonstration and pilot projects in partnership with the private sector, local governments, non-governmental organizations and others;
- Identifying science, research and data needs to support state and local actions and provide direct service to communities and decision-makers to apply current science;
- Developing capacity for implementation of preparedness measures and documentation of best practices to support decision-making to enhance preparedness and resilience among the business community.

Recent Alliance Products

- **Policy Recommendations**—In 2014 the Alliance produced a report, *Resilience. Preparing New Jersey For Climate Change: Policy Considerations from the New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance*, which is the culmination of two years of work, including research on climate change impacts in New Jersey, identifying leading practices for addressing impacts,



and extensive stakeholder engagement. The report offers a suite of recommendations for public policies and programs that are needed in New Jersey to more fully prepare the state for climate change. The report is supported by more than 25 basis and background reports summarizing climate change impacts, input from stakeholders and policy analyses. All of these reports can be found at: <http://njadapt.rutgers.edu/resources/njcaa-reports>.

- **NJADAPT**—As a partnership of various programs at Rutgers University, the Alliance facilitates the development of NJADAPT, an online tool that is designed to support efforts by many users to identify and address vulnerabilities from a changing climate. Located at <http://www.njadapt.org>, NJADAPT is a web-based tool that allows users to create maps that show people, places and assets vulnerable to climate change impacts. Additionally, it serves as a platform to host reports and educational videos on climate change impacts in New Jersey.
- **NJ Climate Adaptation Directory**—identifies geographic data, tools, reports, model policies and ordinances, case studies, and current projects focused on evaluating vulnerabilities and developing and implementing climate change adaptation plans and strategies. The resources included are aimed at professionals in a range of fields, including but not limited to infrastructure, public health, emergency management, hazard mitigation, natural resources, economic development, agriculture, and land use planning. The directory can be found at <http://njadapt.rutgers.edu/resources/climate-adaptation-directory>.

For more information about the New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance, visit njadapt.rutgers.edu

Learn more about Climate Impacts to NJ <http://njadapt.rutgers.edu/climate-impacts-in-new-jersey>

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