

Climate Adaptation at the Federal Level and Beyond

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Federal Climate Adaptation

- Comprehensive climate legislation
 - Passed the House in June '09 (ACES)
 - Died in Senate in August '10
- Had key adaptation provisions
 - National adaptation strategy
 - State and agency-specific adaptation plans
 - Significant natural resource adaptation funding
- Attacks underway on EPA's Clean Air Act authority to regulate carbon



Photo: Phil Romans

New Adaptation Legislation

- November 16, 2011
- Safeguarding America's Future and Environment (SAFE) Act
- Requires natural resources adaptation planning by federal and state governments
- Co-sponsored by Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT) and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)



Key Federal Agencies for Adaptation

- Council on Environmental Quality
- Office of Science and Technology Policy
- Department of Interior
 - Fish & Wildlife Service
 - US Geological Survey
- US Forest Service
- NOAA
- Environmental Protection Agency



Council on Environmental Quality

- White House “environment” office
- Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force
 - Convened based on executive order
 - 20 federal agencies
 - Federal Actions for a Climate Resilient Nation
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Guidance on NEPA and climate change



Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)

- White House “science” office
- National Climate Adaptation Summit
 - Held in March 2010
 - Report just released

“We only have three choices: adaptation, mitigation and suffering, and we are going to need a lot of the first two in order to avoid a lot of the third ... Anybody who thinks there are alternatives is smoking dope.”

-- John Holdren, President’s Science Advisor



Department of Interior Initiatives

- Secretarial Order on climate change (3289)
 - issued Sept. '09
- Key Provisions:
 - Energy and Climate Council established
 - Climate change planning requirements
 - Climate Science Centers
 - Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (Andrew)
- America's Great Outdoors
 - Jointly chaired with Dept. of Agriculture
 - Report released November 3, 2011
 - In NJ features two Barnegat Bay priorities



US Fish & Wildlife Service

- USFWS Climate Change Strategy
 - September, 2010
- National Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Adaptation Strategy
 - Due May, 2012
- Landscape Conservation Cooperatives



US Geological Survey

- National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center
 - Established through appropriations process
 - Providing funding for research on priority climate change research needs
 - Focus on ecological response models rather than climate models
- Providing initial support and staffing for DOI Regional Climate Science Centers



DOI Regional Climate Science Centers

- 8 Climate Science Centers planned
 - Alaska, Pacific NW, Southeast in process
- Types of information envisioned
 - Downscaled climate information
 - Response modeling and forecasting
 - Vulnerability assessments
 - Response scenarios



US Forest Service

- Strategic Framework for Responding to Climate Change (2008)
- National Roadmap for Responding to Climate Change (2010)
- Climate Change Resource Center website

<http://www.fs.fed.us/ccrc/>



Environmental Protection Agency

- Most EPA climate work is focused on mitigation rather than adaptation
 - With demise of climate bill, Clean Air Act authority will be primary vehicle for carbon regulation
- Climate-Ready Estuaries Program



NOAA

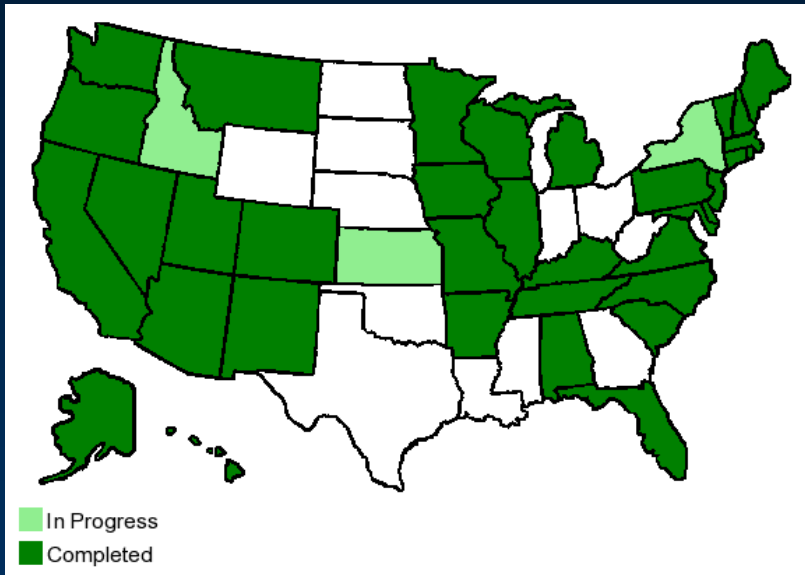
National Climate Service

- Programmatic framework to address climate change
- Coastal Climate Adaptation website

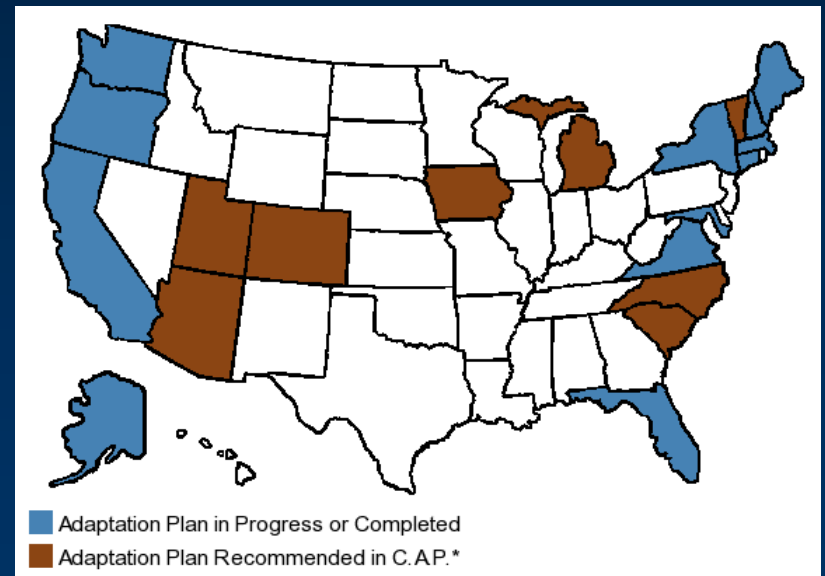


State-Based Work

Climate Action Plans



State Adaptation Plans



Climate Action Plans/ Adaptation Plans

- 25 states updating Wildlife Action Plans
- 13 held workshops ~ CA, CT, FL, MA, ME, MI, MT, NH, NJ, NY, RI, TX, VA, VT, WA
- Northeast regional efforts



A Role Model for the Mid-Atlantic States

Comprehensive Strategy For
Reducing Maryland's
Vulnerability to Climate Change

Phase II: Building societal, economic, and
ecological resilience

January, 2011



Lucky Seven

- <http://www.georgetownclimate.org/adaptation/state-and-local-plans>
- http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ceq/2011_adaptation_progress_report.pdf
- <http://downloads.globalchange.gov/strategic-plan/usgcrp-draft-strategic-plan.pdf>
- <http://www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/>
- <http://www.cakex.org/>
- <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/energy/cca/eea-climate-adaptation-report.pdf>
- <http://www.green.maryland.gov/pdfs/MDclimate.pdf>

Thank You

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