

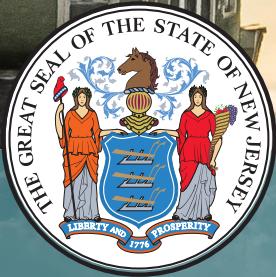
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# CLIMATE CHANGE

## RESILIENCE STRATEGY

AT-A-GLANCE

**127** actions are recommended to enhance resilience across the state.



### NEW JERSEY'S SIX CLIMATE RESILIENCE PRIORITIES



**Build Resilient and Healthy Communities**



**Strengthen the Resilience of New Jersey's Ecosystems**



**Promote Coordinated Governance**



**Invest in Information and Increase Public Understanding**



**Promote Climate-Informed Investments and Innovative Financing**



**Coastal Resilience Plan**

# CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE STRATEGY

Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 89 which appointed the state's first Chief Resilience Officer, established an Interagency Council on Climate Resilience, and directed the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to lead development of the state's first *Climate Change Resilience Strategy*. The *Resilience Strategy* outlines six state priorities, each of which includes recommendations to guide state and local government efforts to protect vulnerable communities, infrastructure, businesses, and the environment throughout all of New Jersey's 565 municipalities from the devastating effects of climate change. The Interagency Council on Climate Resilience has worked collaboratively to develop the *Resilience*

*Strategy*, which includes 127 recommendations to strengthen New Jersey against climate impacts, including the State's unique risks from sea-level rise, chronic flooding, rising temperatures, and more frequent and intense storm events.

Climate change creates new risks and is a threat multiplier that compounds existing vulnerabilities and inequities. Across all six priorities in this strategy, state agencies are committed to improving resilience for those communities that face the steepest challenges in addressing the risk of climate change.

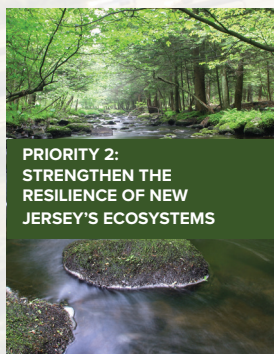
## SIX CLIMATE RESILIENCE PRIORITIES:



**PRIORITY 1:  
BUILD RESILIENT AND  
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

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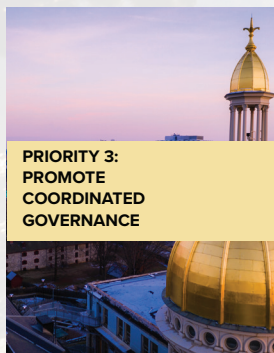
A resilient New Jersey starts with strong, vibrant, and healthy communities. Nearly 9 million people call New Jersey home, making it the densest and one of the most diverse states in the country. The landscapes from the highlands to the sandy beaches of the barrier islands are as diverse as their people, cultures and history. Climate change will continue to place stress on these vibrant places and their residents, and fostering community resilience will require planning, innovation, decisive action, collaboration, and an unwavering commitment to sound, science-based decision-making.



**PRIORITY 2:  
STRENGTHEN THE  
RESILIENCE OF NEW  
JERSEY'S ECOSYSTEMS**

### **PRIORITY 2: STRENGTHEN THE RESILIENCE OF NEW JERSEY'S ECOSYSTEMS**

New Jersey is rich with beautiful mountains, lakes, rivers, and beaches that are the delight of its residents and tourists alike. The farms, forests, bays, and other ecosystems in New Jersey are vital to the state's economy and identity as the Garden State. They also provide critical habitat to more than 3,700 wildlife species, from monarch butterflies to blue whales. With ecosystem services ranging from water filtration to flood attenuation to recreation, New Jersey residents rely on their natural environment for clean air and water regardless of where they live or work. These incalculable benefits afforded by the state's healthy ecosystems are at risk from the impacts of climate change. Protecting our natural systems, minimizing environmental threats, and restoring degraded areas are critical to protecting the health and vitality of all natural resources in the state, as well as the benefits they provide to residents.



**PRIORITY 3:  
PROMOTE  
COORDINATED  
GOVERNANCE**

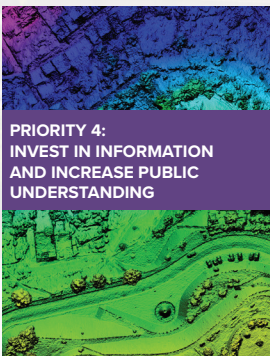
### **PRIORITY 3: PROMOTE COORDINATED GOVERNANCE**

Climate change impacts will affect every aspect of state and local government, just as they will every sector of New Jersey's economy, and every resident. State agencies need to consider climate change as part of business as usual for everything the government does. By viewing the operations of government through a climate resilience lens, New Jersey will be able to confront the coming impacts in a proactive manner. The Interagency Council on Climate Resilience brings these perspectives together to create a coordinated approach to addressing climate resilience.

# INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The *Climate Change Resilience Strategy* was developed in collaboration with the Interagency Council on Climate Resilience, which is comprised of the following state agencies:

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Banking and Insurance
- Department of Community Affairs (DCA)
- Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- Department of Health (DOH)
- Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Department of Law and Public Safety
- Department of State
- Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Department of Treasury
- Board of Public Utilities (BPU)
- Economic Development Authority (EDA)
- New Jersey Highlands Council
- New Jersey Infrastructure Bank (NJIB)
- New Jersey Transit
- New Jersey Turnpike Authority (NJTA)
- New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM)



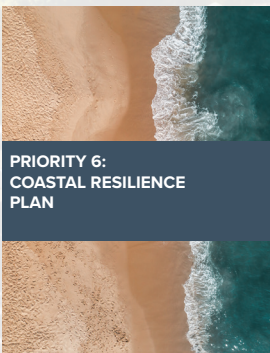
## PRIORITY 4: INVEST IN INFORMATION AND INCREASE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING

Climate change is the defining issue of our time. As a threat multiplier it will permeate every sector, resource, and community with wide-reaching implications. Increasing resilience to these impacts requires preparedness, and awareness is a key part of being prepared. It is critical that the state is using the best available information for its own decision-making and proactively sharing that information with residents, businesses, and other stakeholders.



## PRIORITY 5: PROMOTE CLIMATE-INFORMED INVESTMENTS AND INNOVATIVE FINANCING

The scale of action needed to address climate impacts is unprecedented, requiring extraordinary efficiency in capital deployment and the opportunity to maximize co-benefits with every dollar. Both public and private funds will be essential to funding resilience actions throughout the state. Given the significant risks that climate change poses for current investments of public funds, climate risk assessment and avoidance becomes vital. It is important that the State prioritizes investment of public dollars into activities that serve the long-term economic needs and boost the resilience of communities, especially those that are least able to respond.



## PRIORITY 6: COASTAL RESILIENCE PLAN

The coastal areas of New Jersey provide infinite value as places of residence, tourist destinations, cultural and historic assets, ecological resources, and economic drivers within the state. While climate change will impact every area in the state, nowhere are the challenges more acute than the diverse communities of the coastal zone. Responding to the threats of sea-level rise, changes in coastal storms, and other climate impacts will inevitably change the look and feel of communities up and down the coast. Transforming state coastal management, increasing nature-based resilience measures, and encouraging proactive planning for sea-level rise and increased storm risk are the central goals of the state's first *Coastal Resilience Plan*.

## KEY OUTCOMES FOR SIX CLIMATE RESILIENCE PRIORITIES:



1

### PRIORITY 1 KEY OUTCOMES

- A statewide technical assistance program to support local climate resilience actions
- Increased integration of climate change into local, regional, and state planning
- Expanded support for workforce development and capacity-building across all levels of government
- Focused resources and policies to address inequities in underserved communities



2

### PRIORITY 2 KEY OUTCOMES

- Healthier ecosystems that are more resilient to climate change impacts
- Enhancement of ecosystem services to benefit overall state resilience, including water storage and filtration, flood attenuation, carbon sequestration, and urban heat mitigation
- Natural resources, agriculture, and public lands better positioned to adapt to environmental changes



3

### PRIORITY 3 KEY OUTCOMES

- Efficient, proactive, communicative governance of statewide climate resilience policy through the Interagency Council on Climate Resilience
- High level engagement and accountability across state agencies
- Inclusion of local government and community leaders and their expertise in state resilience decisions



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### PRIORITY 4 KEY OUTCOMES

- A multi-faceted public education and risk communication campaign
- Improved data and methods for understanding climate resilience
- Increased engagement from the public, business community, and all levels of government



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### PRIORITY 5 KEY OUTCOMES

- Integrate climate considerations and fiscal risk from climate change impacts into funding criteria
- Prioritization of socially vulnerable populations in funding decisions
- Expanded use of private capital and innovative financing mechanisms to fund resilience



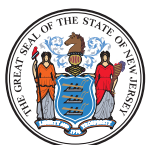
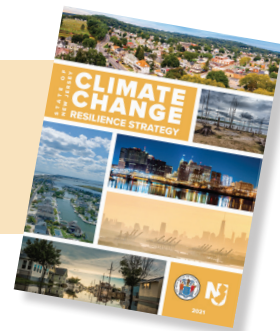
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### PRIORITY 6 KEY OUTCOMES

- An expanded tidal wetland monitoring program
- Resilience incorporated into design of new development and redevelopment projects
- Prioritization of state funding for coastal resilience projects to protect major population and economic centers, concentrations of critical infrastructure, and socially vulnerable populations
- More private property owners adapting to climate change
- Assessment of relocation policy opportunities and obstacles

To view the full Climate Change Resilience Strategy, visit: [nj.gov/dep/climatechange/resilience-strategy](https://nj.gov/dep/climatechange/resilience-strategy)

For more information, contact: [climateresilience@dep.nj.gov](mailto:climateresilience@dep.nj.gov)



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