Upstream Opportunities: A listening approach to early public engagement in DRBC climate resilience planning

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#### Acknowledgements



#### **DRBC's Resilience Team**

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The DRBC's authority and jurisdiction comes from the **Delaware River Basin** Compact.



Manage, protect, and improve the water resources of the Delaware River Basin.

#### **Our Vision**

Provide trusted, effective, and coordinated management of the Basin's shared water resources.

#### **Our Work**

- Water Quality
- Water Supply Planning and Water Conservation Initiatives
- Project Review and Permitting
- Flow Management and Hydrology
- Flood Loss Reduction and Drought Management



White House ceremonial signing of the Delaware River Basin Compact, Nov. 2, 1961

## The Basin state Governors and the USACE NAD Commander are the Commissioners of the DRBC.



New York Governor, Kathy Hochul, DRBC Chair





Delaware Governor, Matt Meyer,

DRBC Vice Chair





**Delaware River Basin Commission** 

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NEW JERSEY

North Atlantic Division Commander
US Army Corps of Engineers, BG John Lloyd





Pennsylvania Governor, Josh Shapiro





New Jersey Governor, Phil Murphy



#### Commission Action: Resolution 2024-04

- Recognizes the state of climate science
- Highlights climate action plans developed by Commission members
- Finds that climate change impacts the water resources of the Basin and the functionality and resilience of water infrastructure
- Directs the Commission to include a climate section in the Water
   Resources Program and to develop its own Climate Resilience Plan



#### **Draft Vision Statement**

The Climate Resilience Plan will inform DRBC actions and activities to prepare and adapt the Basin's shared water resources to withstand the known and potential impacts of climate change.



#### Climate Resilience Plan



#### Commission Action: DRBC Resolution 2024-4

- Finds that climate change impacts the water resources of the Basin
- Directs the Commission to develop a Climate Resilience Plan

#### Climate Resilience Plan Development

- Focus on water resource matters within Commission authority and jurisdiction
- Complementary to efforts being made by Commission members
- Prioritized actions for evaluating impacts and formulating management approaches

#### Areas of Potential Action

- Flow and drought management
- Flood loss
- Water quality
- Water use and efficiency
- Water equity and environmental justice

#### Timing

- Scoping/Phase 1 2025
- Additional Assessment, Planning and Implementation to follow

#### DRBC's Climate Resilience Planning Is Underway







Resilience Team Climate resilience plan framework

Vulnerability assessment & gap analysis

Revise, update, re-evaluate

**DRBC** 

**Staff** continue ongoing climate-related work

**Commission** considers additional actions as identified in CRP

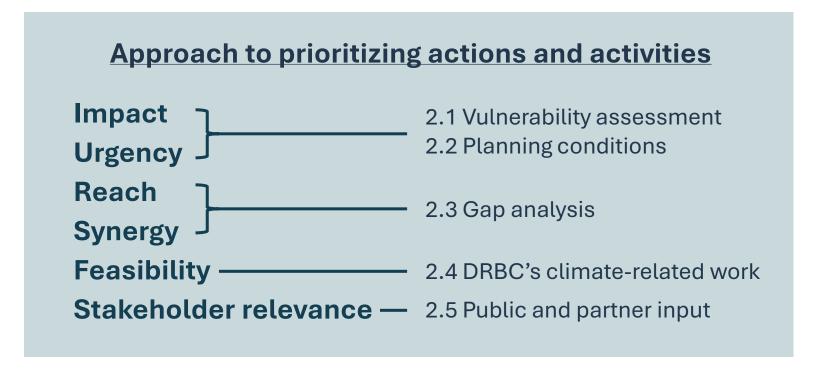


# Climate Resilience Plan Framework (Phase 1)



#### 1. CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLAN OVERVIEW

#### 2. PHASE 2 WORKPLAN



#### 3. PHASE 3 WORKPLAN

Periodically update planning documents in light of scientific advances, climate-related events, and/or other changes in context.

#### DRBC will seek public and partner input during Phase 1

Goal for Phase 1: Ensure that the scope of the climate resilience plan considers the breadth of public and partner concerns about climate change and water resources.

- Informal: No comment response on Phase 1 public input
- "Comment card": Online form to solicit answers to broad, open-ended questions
  - What are your concerns about climate change and/or water resources in the future?
- Listening sessions: Hosted virtual and in-person sessions
  - Distinct from open public comment, discussion focused on specific questions
- Meet people where they are:
  - Incorporate into partner meetings, events, other public DRBC meetings/events



# Virtual Comment Card





- Comment Card active throughout Phase 1.
- Publicly available and accessible online.
- Participants can answer any/all of 4 questions.
- Partnership ensures diverse input.
- No formal comment response will report out.

#### Fill Out a Comment Card: Phase 1 Questions

- 1. How has climate change affected you and your life?
- 2. What are your concerns about climate change and/or water resources in the future?
- 3. What actions would you like to see the Commission take to protect water resources?
- 4. How would you want to stay informed and engaged about DRBC's climate plan?





### **Listening Sessions**

- Multiple public listening sessions, mix of webinars and inperson.
- Stakeholders can share comments informally, discuss their views, ask questions.
- Co-hosting with partners ensures a variety of stakeholders and viewpoints.
- Distinct from DRBC's "open public comment" sessions.
- No formal comment response.



#### Listening Sessions

### Share Your Thoughts DRBC's Climate Resilience Plan



#### Webinars:

February 19, 2025, 7 pm March 12, 2025, 9 am March 19, 2025, 7 pm May 12, 2025, 7 pm May 20, 2025, 7 pm

#### In-Person Sessions:

April 23, 2025, 7 pm, New Castle, Del. April 30, 2025, 7 pm, Liberty, N.Y. May 5, 2025, 7 pm, West Trenton, N.J. June 11, 2025, Time and location TBA

https://tinyurl.com/DRBCClimatePlan

#### Co-Hosts:



Rutgers Climate and Energy Institute

New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center





...and your organization?



# Meet people where they are



Incorporate into partner meetings, events, bespoke opportunities.

Case Study: Trenton Walks!

Your next event?

Couple with DRBC meetings and Our Shared Waters events

 June Commission Meeting features wraparound events





### Phase 1 Milestones



#### **Activities and Milestones**

- Launch CRP page on DRBC website
- Start collecting "comment card" feedback
- Host listening sessions for public and partner input

- First draft of Phase 1 report (internal review)
- ACCC Meeting
- Final draft of Phase 1 report (external review)
- ACCC Meeting
- Publish Phase 1 report
- Begin planning Phase 2
- ACCC Meeting

# Tell us what you think!

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