

EPA Climate Change and Water News

November 2, 2012

The *EPA Climate Change and Water News* is a bi-weekly newsletter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water that features news and information about EPA and other federal activities related to climate change and water. Partner activities, as well as related events and publications, are also included.

For more information on climate change and water, please visit our website:
<http://www.epa.gov/water/climatechange>.

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U.S. EPA News

EPA Launches New App and Website that Lets Users Check Health of Waterways Anywhere in the United States

EPA recently launched a new app and website to help users find information on the condition of thousands of lakes, rivers, and streams across the United States from their smart phone, tablet, or

desktop computer. The "How's My Waterway" app and website use GPS technology, a user-entered zip code, or a city name to provide information about the quality of local water bodies. The release of the app and website helps mark the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, which Congress enacted on October 18, 1972. For more information, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/mywaterway>.

EPA Announces 2013 Environmental Justice Small Grants (Application Period Closes January 7, 2013)

EPA is seeking applicants for \$1.5 million in environmental justice small grants to be awarded in 2013. The grants enable non-profit organizations to conduct research, provide education, and develop solutions to local health and environmental issues in communities overburdened by harmful pollution. Ranking criteria include how the affected community may be disproportionately impacted by environmental harms and risks/climate change. Grants are available for up to \$30,000 each. The application period will close on January 7, 2013. Applicants must be incorporated non-profits, federally recognized tribal governments, or tribal organizations working to educate, empower and enable their communities to understand and address local environmental and public health issues. EPA will host four pre-application teleconference calls to help applicants understand the requirements. For more information, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html>.

Other U.S. Federal Agency News

U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Releases Report: "Energy-Water Nexus: Coordinated Federal Approach Needed to Better Manage Energy and Water Tradeoffs"

With the U.S. demand for water and energy projected to rise in coming decades, the Department of Energy and other federal agencies need to better coordinate policies related to energy and water, a recently released GAO report concludes. The report is the most recent in a series of GAO reports examining the nexus between energy and water. The report looks at the vast amounts of water used by the U.S. in energy production, from cooling thermoelectric power plants to the growth of feedstocks for biofuel production to oil and gas extraction. It also examines how water and energy are inextricably linked in the treatment of drinking water and wastewater. The GAO report noted several factors likely to affect future supply and demand for both energy and water, including climate change, population growth, and demographic shifts. To view the report (GAO-12-880), visit: <http://www.gao.gov/assets/650/648306.pdf>.

"Coastal Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerabilities: 2012 Technical Input Report to the 2013 National Climate Assessment" Made Available

This report on climate change impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability in coastal areas of the U.S. indicates that coping with sea level rise and coastal disruption will be a challenge for coastal economies. It also states that impacts on coastal systems are among the most costly and most certain consequences of a warming climate, and as average sea level rises, coastal and low-lying areas will be inundated more frequently, if not permanently, by the advancing sea. Led by the U.S. Geological Survey and NOAA, with input from several federal agencies including EPA, the report was submitted to the U.S. Global Change Research Program, an interagency initiative that coordinates research on climate change in the federal government. This report is part of a large body of information that is being distilled into a single assessment report that will be submitted by the U.S. Global Climate Research Program to Congress and the President in late 2013. The draft of the National Climate Assessment will be released for public comment in December 2012 or early January 2013. To view the report, visit: <http://www.coastalstates.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Coastal-Impacts-Adaptation-Vulnerabilities-Oct-2012.pdf>.

NOAA Climate Program Office Extends Deadline for Final Applications to FY 2013 Grants Competition to November 16, 2012

In FY 2013, NOAA will be accepting individual applications for seven competitions organized around the following programs: Earth System Science; Modeling, Analysis, Predictions, and Projections; and Climate and Societal Interactions. It is anticipated that \$14.5 million will be available through this announcement in FY 2013 for approximately 115 new awards pending budget appropriations. Most awards will be at a funding level between \$50,000 and \$200,000 per year, with some exceptions for larger awards. The deadline for final applications has been extended to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, November 16, 2012. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications at least two days early. For more information on the grants competition, visit: <http://www.cpo.noaa.gov/opportunities/>.

Announcement of Vacancy for NOAA Climate Program Office Director (Closes on December 28, 2012)

The Director of the Climate Program Office at NOAA reports to the Climate Goal Champion and the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Programs and Administration. The incumbent is responsible for the overall development and administration, along with NOAA's Climate Goal Champion and the Assistant Administrator, for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and working in concert with NOAA Line Offices. In this capacity the incumbent assesses science directions and user needs; sets program goals and objectives; plans, organizes, and implements program activities; coordinates implementation with appropriate NOAA components, and performs program evaluations. The position also provides direction of climate programs and competitive grants, as well as the administration of grant awards. In this capacity the incumbent works with the external and internal climate science community to sustain critical climate science and service programs and implement new program areas based upon emerging science directions and needs of the agency and information needs of users. The Director also provides support to NOAA's efforts in the interagency climate and global change program. The vacancy announcement closes on December 28, 2012. For more information, visit: <http://www.cpo.noaa.gov/>.

Other News

Webinar on "Communicating with the Public about Climate Change" to be Held November 8, 2012

The Ohio State University will host a webinar to present research from an ongoing program, conducted by George Mason University and Yale University, analyzing Americans' interpretations of and responses to climate change. The research segments the American public into six audiences along a spectrum of concern and issue engagement. These audiences range from those who are convinced of the reality and danger of climate change, and who are highly supportive of personal and political actions to mitigate the threat, to those who are equally convinced that climate change is not occurring and that no response should be made. This webinar will provide information about how segments of the American public think about the issue of climate change along with principles for effective communication. It will also provide information on the Yale Project on Climate Change Communication. For information on how to register for this webinar, visit: <http://changingclimate.osu.edu/webinars/>.

Publication Released: "A Comprehensive Review of Climate Adaptation in the United States: More than Before, but Less than Needed"

The authors of this report reviewed existing and planned adaptation activities of federal, tribal, state, and local governments and the private sector in the U.S. to understand what types of adaptation activities are underway across different sectors and scales throughout the country. Primary sources of review included material officially submitted for consideration in the upcoming 2013 U.S. National Climate Assessment and supplemental peer-reviewed and grey literature. Although substantial adaptation planning is occurring in various sectors, levels of government, and the private sector, few measures have been implemented and even fewer have been evaluated. Most adaptation actions to date appear to be incremental changes, not the transformational changes that may be needed in certain cases to adapt to significant changes in climate. While there appear to be no one-size-fits-all adaptations, there are similarities in approaches across scales and sectors, including mainstreaming climate considerations into

existing policies and plans, and pursuing no- and low-regrets strategies. Barriers to implementation still impede action in all sectors, and the most significant include lack of funding, policy and institutional constraints, and difficulty in anticipating climate change given the current state of information on change. The practice of adaptation can advance through learning by doing, stakeholder engagements, and sharing of best practices. To view this report, visit:

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/k3v613601198471/>.

National Research Council Announces Website on Climate Modeling 101

The National Research Council's Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate has launched Climate Modeling 101, a website designed to help the public learn more about the basics of climate modeling-- how models work and why they are important. The earth's climate system is complicated and incorporates thousands of factors that interact in space and time around the globe and over many generations. For several decades, scientists have used the world's most advanced computers to both simulate climate and predict future climate. Many industries increasingly rely on information from these models to guide decision making. The website features short videos and animations that explain everything from the difference between climate and weather to how climate models are built and verified. To learn more, visit: <http://nas-sites.org/climatemodeling/>.

Call for Presentation Proposals for the National Adaptation Forum (Deadline: November 23, 2012)

The National Adaptation Forum will convene practitioners and innovators who are actively engaged or interested in climate change adaptation on April 2-4, 2013 in Denver, Colorado. The Forum intends to create a space for the professional adaptation community from across the U.S. to share strategies, lessons, tools, and information necessary to incorporate climate change into their work. Each day of the conference will focus on a different step in the adaptation process: Problem Identification and Motivation; Planning and Capacity Building; Implementation and Evaluation. Participants are invited to submit a proposal for a symposium, an oral or a poster presentation, or lead a training event or working group. Conference organizers are particularly interested in proposals that address multiple sectors and present innovative ways to advance climate change adaptation. The deadline to submit proposals is November 23, 2012. For more information about submitting a proposal, visit:

<http://www.nationaladaptationforum.org/index.php/program/call-for-presentation-abstracts>.

Call for Proposals for ICLEI's Annual Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation - Resilient Cities 2013 (Deadline: November 30, 2012)

The organizers of ICLEI's Annual Global Forum, "Resilient Cities 2013," are looking for contributions for the upcoming conference that will be held May 31 - June 2, 2013 in Bonn, Germany. These contributions may include ideas for presentations, panels, workshop sessions, poster sessions, and co-events. "Resilience 2013" will offer sessions and events on a wide variety of topics such as urban risk, resilient urban logistics, financing the resilient city, urban agriculture and smart infrastructure. In 2010, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, the World Mayors Council on Climate Change and the City of Bonn, Germany launched Resilient Cities; the first World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change. In 2012, this Congress was renamed as the Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation. More than 500 participants and beyond 30 partners each year helped bring together local government leaders and climate adaptation experts to discuss adaptation challenges facing urban environments around the globe. For more information, visit: <http://resilient-cities.iclei.org/resilient-cities-hub-site/2013-call-for-contributions/>.

13th National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment: Disasters and Environment - Science, Preparedness, and Resilience to be Held in Washington, D.C. January 15-17, 2013

Resilience and sustainability are key considerations in the planning for disasters. This national conference will explore issues including transportation, land use, infrastructure, energy and water supply, waste management, local commerce, job creation, poverty alleviation, and emergency preparedness. A

symposium during the conference will highlight EPA's unique role in the disaster area, and will focus in part on several EPA research projects aimed at strengthening community resilience. For more information on the conference, visit: <http://www.environmentaldisasters.net/topics/view/81470/>.