

EPA Climate Change and Water News

November 29, 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's WaterSense Announces Online Resource for Best Management Practices for Commercial and Institutional Facilities

EPA's WaterSense program has created "WaterSense at Work: Best Management Practices for Commercial and Institutional Facilities", an online compilation of best management practices to help commercial and institutional facilities better manage their water use through efficient practices and products. Building owners and managers can significantly reduce their water use, energy requirements,

and operating costs by understanding how to use water more efficiently in their facilities. America's commercial and institutional facilities use 17 percent of the water provided by the nation's public water supplies, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. "WaterSense at Work" addresses water use in educational facilities, offices, restaurants, hotels, hospitals, laboratories, and other organizations and presents numerous tactics for businesses and organizations to achieve water, energy, and operational savings, as well as case studies on different types of facilities that have achieved savings by using water efficiently. For more information, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/commercial/bmps.html>.

EPA and Partners Announce Philadelphia Green Stormwater Infrastructure Competition - Registration Deadline: November 30, 2012

The EPA, Philadelphia Water Department, and Community Design Collaborative invite architects, landscape architects, engineers, and other professionals to team up for the "Infill Philadelphia: Soak It Up!" design competition. This interdisciplinary design competition promotes the use of green stormwater infrastructure to mobilize public-private partnerships to advance innovative, cost-effective, sustainable site design solutions in Philadelphia that can serve as inspiring, national models for watershed protection and community revitalization. The registration deadline is November 30, 2012, and the submission deadline is January 22, 2013. For more information, visit: <http://infill.cdesignc.org/participate-2/design-competition/>.

Register to Watch the Webcast of the December 4, 2012 EPA Symposium: "Importance of Water to the U.S. Economy"

EPA is conducting a study on the importance of water in the U.S. economy to better understand how water contributes to the economic welfare of the nation and plays a critical role in many sectors of the U.S. economy. On December 4, 2012 EPA will host a public symposium in Washington, D.C. with speakers that represent a diverse array of industries including agriculture, food production, manufacturing, recreation, tourism, and fishing. EPA will also release a draft report on the importance of water to the U.S. economy. Registration to attend the event in person has closed; however, interested parties can register to watch the event online. For information on registration, visit: <http://water.epa.gov/action/importanceofwater/registration.cfm>.

EPA Announces December 11, 2012 Webcast on Tribal Approaches to Addressing the Changing Climate

EPA's Office of Atmospheric Programs will be hosting a webcast on December 11, 2012 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM EST, showcasing tribes who are implementing energy conservation, materials recycling, and adaptation programs. Learn how the Gila River Indian Community and Choctaw Nation are reducing greenhouse gas emissions through recycling and energy efficiency audits. Learn how the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin is integrating climate change considerations into their decision-making and water management programs. Also learn about resources and funding ideas to design and implement climate change programs that may be right for your tribe. To register, visit: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/478698930>.

EPA Announces December 13, 2012 Webcast on Planning for Sustainability for Water Utilities

On December 13, 2012 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm EST, EPA will host a webcast on how water and wastewater utilities can build sustainability considerations into alternatives analyses as they evaluate and select investments in infrastructure. The webcast is the third in a series of EPA webcasts built around the core elements of the 2012 handbook, "Planning for Sustainability: A Handbook for Water and Wastewater Utilities." The webcast will feature presentations on how utilities in Oregon and North Carolina have addressed sustainability in their analysis of alternatives. To register for the free webcast, visit: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/672950736>. To view presentations from past webcasts in the series or to download a copy of the handbook, visit: http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/sustain/sustainable_systems.cfm.

Other U.S. Federal Agency News

U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration Solicits Pilot Projects on Climate Change and Extreme Weather Vulnerability Assessments and Adaptation Options Analyses

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is soliciting proposals for projects from State Departments of Transportation (DOTs), Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Federal Land Management Agencies, and Tribes to conduct analysis in one of two areas related to climate change and extreme weather adaptation: 1) assessments of transportation vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather events, or 2) developing options for improving resiliency of transportation facilities or systems to climate changes and/or extreme weather events. In 2010-2011, the FHWA sponsored five MPO and State DOT led pilots to conduct vulnerability and risk assessments of their transportation infrastructure. The FHWA has since restructured that conceptual model into an updated framework, incorporating lessons learned from the 2010-2011 pilots and other studies. Completed project descriptions are due by January 22, 2013. For more information, visit:

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/climate_change/adaptation/ongoing_and_current_research/vulnerability_assessment_pilots/2013-2014_solicitation/index.cfm.

OneNOAA Science Seminar Series Announces Webinar on December 6, 2012: "Using Mobile Tide-Gage Networks to Observe Storm Surge"

Historically, hurricane-induced storm-tides were documented through analysis of the records from a select few tide gages and high-water marks. However, these sources provide limited information about the timing of the flood, the sequencing of multiple paths by which the storm-surge waters inundated inland areas, and the magnitude of waves and wave run-up comprising inland flood waters. Additionally, highwater marks cannot be used to evaluate storm-surge model performance along the dynamic track of a hurricane with its accompanying changes in wind strength and direction. In response to these deficiencies, the U.S. Geological Survey developed and deployed a mobile storm-tide network to provide detailed time-series data for selected hurricane landfalls. As part of this program, water-level and barometric pressure monitors were placed in areas of forecasted hurricane landfall, resulting in a concentrated network of temporary tide gages placed along water channels and nearby overland features such as beaches, wetlands, and constructed environments. This webinar will provide an overview of the mobile network concept and a review of its deployment and some uses of the data, including a discussion of deployment for Hurricane Sandy. For more information, visit:

<http://www.nodc.noaa.gov/seminars/2012/12-dec.html>.

Other News

Webinar on "Climate Change Preparedness Planning in the West: Lessons from Local Governments" to be Held on December 5, 2012

Presented by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and the Sonoran Institute, this webinar will look at how communities are preparing for and building local resilience to climate variability and climate-related disasters. Sustainability specialists from Boulder County, Colorado and Flagstaff, Arizona will examine the impacts of climate change on their communities and how they plan to become more resilient. To register for the webinar, visit: <https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/453998615>.

Rhode Island Climate Change Commission Identifies Social, Economic, and Environmental Vulnerabilities in Report - "Adapting to Climate Change in the Ocean State: A Starting Point"

The Rhode Island Climate Change Commission, a state panel charged with assessing the risks

associated with climate change, has released a report summarizing key climate risks in the state and associated social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities as well as current and projected impacts on human health, public and private infrastructure, and the environment. The Commission has identified four major risk categories as top concerns for Rhode Island: (1) wastewater infrastructure vulnerability due to projected sea-level rise, increased severity of storm events, and increased precipitation and flooding; (2) effects on drinking water supplies; (3) energy infrastructure vulnerability resulting in prolonged loss of power and hazards resulting from downed lines; and (4) public health and safety risks to both urban and coastal populations. To view the report, visit:

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/Reports/Climate%20Change%20Commission%20Prog%20Report%20Final%2011%2015%2012%20final%202.pdf>.

Report Examines California's Options for Meeting Water Needs

The California Roundtable on Water and Food Supply has released a report, "From Storage to Retention: Expanding California's Options for Meeting Its Water Needs". The report highlights both a conceptual shift in water management that it argues is a necessary underpinning of effective water storage. It also recommends a set of priority actions that demonstrate high-leverage opportunities to improve California's water storage capacity and management. More specifically, the report indicates that management approaches must support a broad range of options, including ecologically sound large-scale reservoirs, a patchwork of on-farm ponds, expanded soil capacity to retain water, and improvements in groundwater recharge, among others. To view the report, visit:

http://pacinst.org/reports/storage_to_retention/crwfs_full_report_nov_2012.pdf.

Article Published: "Eutrophication Induced CO₂-Acidification of Subsurface Coastal Waters: Interactive Effects of Temperature, Salinity, and Atmospheric PCO₂"

An article published in the journal "Environmental Science and Technology" indicates that increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) are raising seawater CO₂ concentrations and thereby acidifying ocean water. A second environmental problem, eutrophication, is also causing large CO₂ inputs to coastal waters. This occurs because anthropogenic inputs of nutrients have fueled massive algal blooms, which in turn deplete bottom waters of oxygen and release CO₂ when the organic matter from these blooms is respired by bacteria. The study's model predictions were consistent with pH data from hypoxic zones in the northern Gulf of Mexico and Baltic Sea, two eutrophic coastal systems with large temperature and salinity differences. The modeled and measured decreases in pH are well within the range shown to adversely impact marine fauna. To view the article, visit: <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es300626f>.