

EPA Climate Change and Water News

September 7, 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 Releases BASINS and WEPP Climate Assessment Tools (CAT): Case Study Guide to Potential Applications (Final Report)

EPA and partners have developed two water and climate assessment modeling tools, the Better Assessment Science Integrating Point and Non-point Sources (BASINS) and the Water Erosion Prediction Project Climate Assessment Tool (WEPPCAT), that facilitate application of existing simulation models for conducting scenario-based assessments of potential climate change effects on streamflow and water quality. The report presents a series of short case studies using the BASINS and WEPP tools. The case studies are designed to illustrate the capabilities of these tools for conducting scenario-based assessments of the potential effects of climate, land use, and management change on water resources.

This report is of interest to modeling professionals including water and watershed managers, urban or regional planners, government officials, and scientists and engineers interested in using the BASINS or WEPP water models to assess the potential implications of climate change on water resources. For more information, visit: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/global/recordisplay.cfm?deid=242952>.

Apartment and Condominium Units Can Earn WaterSense Label

EPA has modified its specification for new homes to enable apartment and condominium units to earn the WaterSense label, updated product requirements, and adjusted landscape criteria. Using WaterSense-labeled plumbing fixtures, efficient hot water systems, and low-maintenance, water-smart landscapes allows you and your family to enjoy the comforts of home while using less water and energy and spending less money on utility bills. Compared to a typical home, a WaterSense-labeled new home can save a family of four 50,000 gallons of water a year or more. That's enough to wash 2,000 loads of laundry and could amount to utility bill savings of up to \$600 each year. Homes labeled after January 1, 2013 must meet the criteria of the revised specification. For more information on the new label, visit: http://epa.gov/watersense/new_homes/index.html.

Application Period for the 2013 Climate Leadership Awards Open Through October 12, 2012

EPA's Climate Protection Partnerships Division is committed to reducing greenhouse gases through cost-effective partnerships to advance clean energy and energy efficiency across the U.S. economy. As part of this commitment, EPA co-sponsors the Climate Leadership Awards with three NGO partners: The Climate Registry, the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, and the Association of Climate Change Officers. Applications are being accepted for the 2013 Climate Leadership Awards through October 12, 2012. The Climate Leadership Awards is a national awards program that recognizes and incentivizes exemplary corporate, organizational, and individual leadership in response to climate change. In February 2012, the first-ever awards were presented to one individual and 20 organizations from across the U.S. who are leading the way in the management and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. This year's award winners will be publicly recognized in early 2013 at an awards gala in Washington, DC in conjunction with the Climate Leadership Conference. Applications and eligibility criteria are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/climateleadership/awards/index.html?CFID=1579296&CFTOKEN=16556336>.

EPA Video Highlights Utility Use of Clean Water State Revolving Fund to Invest in Water Recycling and Reuse

EPA has made available online a video highlighting the Inland Empire Utilities Agency, a regional wastewater service provider and distributor of wholesale and recycled water in California, which used the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program to conserve water and reduce energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions. Efforts included pipeline construction for recycled water, watershed restoration, and an energy efficiency project that reduced the weight and related energy cost of processing biosolids in wastewater treatment. The Clean Water SRF program, through the Green Project Reserve, helps achieve innovative solutions to wastewater infrastructure needs through projects that address green infrastructure, water efficiency, energy efficiency, or other environmentally innovative activities. To view the video, visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EE-1mHOqAUu>. For more information on the SRF's Green Project Reserve, visit: http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/cwsrf/Green-Project-Reserve.cfm.

Publication Released: *Federal Resources for Sustainable Rural Communities*

The HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities and USDA have jointly released the report *Federal Resources for Sustainable Rural Communities*. This report outlines available federal government programs that support rural communities in promoting economic development and enhancing the quality of life for rural residents. More specifically, this report provides information on federal programs related to Water Infrastructure and Water Quality, including the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, US-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program Grants, Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants, and the Pollution Control Grant Program (Clean Water Act Section 106). Additionally, the publication compiles all of the federal resources that can support rural communities in

their efforts to promote economic competitiveness, protect healthy environments, modernize infrastructure and provide services to residents. To view the press release, visit:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/07/30/making-federal-resources-more-accessible-rural-communities>. The report is available at:

http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov/pdf/federal_resources_rural.pdf.

EPA and Other Federal Partners Launch Sustainable Community Case Study Database

The HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities has launched the Sustainable Community Case Study Database. This online resource provides access to research and reports on communities that are working with EPA, HUD, DOT, and other federal agencies to invest in transportation, affordable housing, and environmental protection. Across the country, communities are putting the Partnership's livability principles into action and creating development that strengthens their economies, leverages assets, and provides residents with more housing and transportation choices. The case studies within this database are just a few examples of communities working with federal agencies to address issues such as water management, green building, transit, housing, smart growth, and environmental protection. To access this database, visit: <http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov/studies.html>.

Other News

The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research's (UCAR) COMET Program Announces Climate Modules

The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research's (UCAR) COMET Program announces the publication of three short web-based modules relating to the impacts of climate change: *Climate Change and Regional Impacts*, *Climate Change and Extreme Weather*, and *Climate Change and Sea Level Rise*. The *Climate Change and Regional Impacts* module provides an overview of the different effects climate change has produced in different regions of the United States. In addition, the module presents information on how climate scientists use specialized models and statistical techniques to estimate how regional climates are likely to change in the future and what those projections currently are. The *Climate Change and Extreme Weather* module discusses how a changing climate can also lead to changes in local extreme weather events. The role of natural variability is also explained, and the module discusses what changes scientists think are likely if greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise. Finally, the *Climate Change and Sea Level Rise* module looks at how increasing temperatures due to climate change have affected sea level rise and what effects scientists expect in the future, given rising greenhouse gas emissions. The various mechanisms of sea level rise are discussed, as well as the tools and research used to study this topic. The module also discusses how countries and communities are preparing for future increases. These modules may be of interest to broadcast meteorologists, operational forecasters, and the general public interested in climate change. For more information, visit:

https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_detail.php?page=1&topic=2&language=1&orderBy=publishDateDesc.

Pacific Institute Releases Report that Shows Social Vulnerability to Climate Change in California and Identifies Need for Adaptation Planning

The report, *Social Vulnerability to Climate Change in California*, shows that addressing social vulnerability (the susceptibility of a given community to harm from a hazard) in climate change policies and response strategies is critical to California's future. With some degree of climate change unavoidable, communities must begin developing and implementing adaptation plans. Integrating social vulnerability into their strategies is key. Social and economic factors such as age, race, income, lack of access to a vehicle/transportation directly affect a community's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate impacts. The report identifies geographic areas within the state with heightened risk to projected climate impacts. To address these vulnerabilities, communities need to begin developing and implementing adaptation plans with local planning processes that directly involve communities most

vulnerable to harm when developing appropriate preparation and adaptation strategies. For more information and to download the report, visit: http://www.pacinst.org/reports/climate_vulnerability_ca/.

Conference Announced: *Stormwater: Green Solutions Beyond Gray Pipes* on September 18-19, 2012 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) will sponsor a conference on effective storm water management on September 18-19, 2012. PEC, established 42 years ago, is a nonprofit organization that provides consulting and advocacy on environmental issues facing Pennsylvania. Conference speakers will address opportunities to increase the collective knowledge base to make it easier to choose green infrastructure options. Topics covered will include meeting regulatory compliance with best management practices, financing models, offsetting mitigation, designing and retrofitting for cost effectiveness, operation and maintenance considerations, municipal codes, and stormwater fees. For more information and to register for this conference, please visit: <http://pastormwater.org>.

Workshop Announced: *Planning Flood-Resilient Communities* on October 10, 2012 in Kansas City, Missouri

Expanding development and increasingly severe storms have set the stage for devastating floods across the country. Many communities find their flood-control systems severely stressed. However, new approaches in flood management are producing positive results. Topics covered during the workshop include managing storm water, mitigating flood hazards, and making communities more resilient. During this workshop, planners, researchers, and engineers will explore design issues, financing mechanisms, future challenges, and the role of planners in safeguarding their communities. Presentations, case studies, group discussions, and a hands-on planning exercise will be part of the workshop. For more information and to register for this workshop, please visit: <http://www.planning.org/pts/oneday/>.