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EPA Climate Change and Water News is a bi-weekly newsletter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water that covers climate change and water-related news from EPA, other U.S. Federal agencies, and partners. To learn more about climate change impacts on water resources, visit our website at: <http://www2.epa.gov/climate-change-water-sector>.

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EPA News

EPA Launches the Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool (CREAT) Version 3.0

CREAT 3.0 assists drinking water, wastewater and stormwater utility owners and operators in understanding potential climate change threats and in assessing the related risks at their individual utilities. CREAT 3.0 is now web-based and features a series of intuitive modules designed to help utilities complete a climate change risk assessment, redesigned from the ground up to provide a more user-friendly experience. The Climate Ready Water Utilities initiative has updated its Climate Projection Scenario Map using data provided in CREAT. The map gives access to projected changes in annual total

precipitation, annual average temperature, annual number of days over 100°F, 100-year storm intensity, and sea-level rise at their location.

[Learn More and Access CREAT.](#)

EPA Awarded GreenGov Presidential Sustainability Awards

EPA received three White House Presidential GreenGov Sustainability awards in the areas of advancing climate resiliency, composting, and sustainable demolition practices, which includes one for helping Long Island Communities develop post-Hurricane Sandy climate resiliency strategies. The GreenGov Presidential Awards celebrate outstanding achievement in the pursuit of President Obama's federal sustainability goals.

[View the Press Release.](#)

[View the Fact Sheet.](#)

EPA Announces Over \$4.6 Million in Grants for Coastal Watersheds in Southeast New England

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced \$4,637,000 for eight grants focused on coastal watershed efforts in southeast Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The projects selected for grant funding are intended to identify, test, and promote effective new regional approaches in critical areas such as water monitoring, watershed planning, nutrient and/or septic management, and resilience to climate change.

[View the Press Release.](#)

New EPA Study Supports the Long-term Benefits of Green Infrastructure

EPA conducted a study to estimate the groundwater recharge benefits from application of small storm retention practices on new development and redevelopment nationwide. The study focuses on areas in the U.S. where groundwater is a significant contributor to urban and agricultural uses and where water shortages may occur in the future under different climate change scenarios. The results show that, over time, the use of green infrastructure can save hundreds of millions of dollars in groundwater resources, while just applying the practices to new development and redevelopment only. If retrofitting or increased retention were to occur, the groundwater benefits would be even more significant.

[Learn More.](#)

Federal News

New Public-Private Partnership Helps Leverage Open Data to Build Climate Resilience

The White House has announced the public-private Partnership for Resilience and Preparedness (PREP), which will identify priority-information needs, reduce barriers to data access and usability, and develop an open-source platform to enable sharing and learning on the availability and use of data and information for climate resilience.

[View the Press Release.](#)

[Read the Fact Sheet.](#)

[Visit the PREP Beta Website.](#)

President Obama Takes a Historic Step to Address the National Security Implications of Climate Change

President Obama signed a Presidential Memorandum (PM) on Climate Change and National Security, establishing a policy that the impacts of climate change must be considered in the development of national security-related doctrine, policies, and plans. To achieve this, 20 Federal agencies and offices with climate science, intelligence analysis, and national security policy development missions and responsibilities will collaborate to ensure the best information on climate impacts is available to strengthen our national security. The PM was released alongside a report from the National Intelligence Council identifying pathways through which climate change will likely pose significant national security

challenges for the United States over the next two decades, including threatening the stability of other countries.

[Read the Fact Sheet.](#)

[Read the Blog Post.](#)

[Read the Presidential Memorandum.](#)

[Read the Full Report by the National Intelligence Council.](#)

Climate Change Increased Chances of Record Rains in Louisiana by at Least 40%

Three days of heavy rains devastated Louisiana in mid-August 2016. NOAA models find that warming due to greenhouse gases has made an event like that at least 40% more likely and 10% more intense.

[View the Press Release.](#)

[Learn More.](#)

Arctic Sea Ice Ties for 2nd Lowest in 2016

In September 2016, Arctic sea ice tied with 2007 for the second-lowest minimum extent in the satellite record, underscoring an ongoing trend of sea ice decline.

[Learn More.](#)

Other News

Georgetown Climate Center Releases New Green Infrastructure Toolkit

The Green Infrastructure Toolkit is designed to help local governments at different stages find the resources and examples that are most helpful to them. The toolkit analyzes common trends in the approaches various cities are taking to planning, implementing, and funding green infrastructure to manage stormwater. The toolkit is organized by chapter that provide an overview of the main issues and brief analysis, accompanied by in-depth case studies of local governments that have implemented the particular tool or policy.

[Check Out the New Toolkit.](#)

A Community Guide for Evaluating Future Urban Water Demand

Predictions of future urban water demand are routinely overestimated, resulting in unneeded and expensive water supply and treatment infrastructure, leading to higher costs to ratepayers and negative environmental impacts. This guide will empower community members with the knowledge and tools they need to understand water demand forecasts and engage effectively in the decision-making process.

[Learn More.](#)

Climate Change Increasing Beach Salinity

A team of researcher's sampled water stored in soil and rock at a beach in Delaware Bay and analyzed them for salinity levels. The team found that, while seawater has a salt concentration of 25 grams per liter, the salinity levels from the pore water were averaging 60 grams per liter. The authors also stressed that this could be exacerbated as temperatures warm, possibly negatively impacting local ecosystems such as mussels and crabs that are sensitive to changes in salinity.

[Read the Full Article.](#)

Great Lakes Warming Faster in Certain Regions

A recent U.S. study found that warming of surface water is happening faster in some regions of the Great Lakes. These findings are important for the long-term management of ecosystems affected by the rising temperatures.

[Learn More.](#)

Upcoming Events

[See a calendar of climate change and water-related training, conferences, and webinars.](#)

This newsletter is produced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water (EPA). For questions related to the newsletter, or to submit an item, email the editor at water_climate_change@epa.gov.

For past issues of EPA Climate Change and Water News, as well as further information on climate change impacts on water resources, visit: <http://www2.epa.gov/climate-change-water-sector>