

# Preface

This 2022 State Water Plan Update (2022 Update) was prepared under the Water Resources Planning Act or the Act of December 16, 2002, P.L. 1776, No 220 ([Act 220 of 2002](#)) which requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to conduct a periodic review of the State Water Plan.

This 2022 Update was not intended to replicate the same level of comprehensive work accomplished under the previous 2009 State Water Plan Update. Rather, the goal for the 2022 Update was to evaluate the outcomes from the extensive body of technical work performed for the 2009 State Water Plan Update through the interim time period to the beginning of the 2022 Update. This evaluation was used to form a policy-level report providing a fresh assessment of issues and revised recommendations, and an appraisal of new climate action strategies. Tasks included:

- Evaluations of previous regional and statewide water resources priorities
- Appraisals of the previous plan's goals
- Development of improved online public access to data
- An expansion of educational and outreach opportunities
- Evaluations of climate action strategies related to water resources

Under the provisions of Act 220 of 2002, a collaborative approach was taken to the 2022 Update. A host of statewide and regional stakeholders serving on a statewide committee and six regional committees advised and guided DEP towards an understanding of today's evolving priorities and needs across each of Pennsylvania's six unique water resource planning regions.

This 2022 Update consists not only of this summary report, but also included the following additional components to meet a wide range of water resource planning and educational needs:

- A collection of web-based tools for access to water withdrawals data

Since the 2009 State Water Plan Update, several significant improvements in data management were developed. Since 2015, with funding assistance from the United States Geological Survey, the process of collecting, managing, and sharing water use data has been a priority of state water planning efforts. DEP has developed several web-based products to readily share water use data and information with the public that are essential components of the 2022 Update. These products include water use report viewers and water use summary reports, which can be accessed on DEP's [website](#).

- An updated digital water atlas

Utilizing technologies that combine text with interactive maps and multimedia content, a new updated digital atlas complements the Pennsylvania Water Atlas from the 2009 State Water Plan Update with updated information and maps to educate the public and help water resource managers make informed decisions, avoid conflicts, and employ effective management practices to protect water resources.

- A platform for educational materials on water resources

The [Pennsylvania Clean Water Academy](#) serves as a digital training library for DEP, conservation district staff, and sewage enforcement officers, with some limited training content available to the public. The Clean Water Academy contains a wide range of water-related webinars, eLearning, and other resources including but not limited to stormwater, water quality, stream encroachments, and water quality data. DEP's State Water Planning Program will take advantage of this platform to expand outreach and educational opportunities by posting water resource-related content.

The State Water Plan is to be reviewed every five years as per the provisions of Act 220 of 2002. Although the Act calls for reviews every five years, ongoing planning work by DEP will continue with the guidance and advice of the statewide and regional committees who will meet periodically on an ongoing basis.