

CLIMATE ADAPTATION UPDATE

Purpose of Climate Adaptation Planning

Identify practical strategies to address climate change impacts on the state's natural resources, public health and safety, infrastructure and tourism and outdoor recreation.

The goals are to bring together a large group of key stakeholders, representing state and federal government agencies, commissions, non-government organizations, industry and academic research to develop these adaptation strategies. Participation in the working groups is open to the public. Working groups have been meeting during the past six months covering the following sector topics:

- natural resources,
- public health & safety,
- infrastructure,
- tourism & outdoor recreation

Outcome is a PA Climate Adaptation Report

The report is being currently being developed and is expected for release on January 7, 2011. It will address these topics on a statewide level for the first time:

- identify current and future climate changes
- assess vulnerabilities and risks for each sector
- develop an adaptation strategy with priorities
- identify opportunities for co-benefits and synergies across sectors
- include specific recommendations for short-term actions

Timeframe

Planning began in March 2010 and report will be completed at end of 2010 (10 months). A final meeting will bring all the working group participants together to share key outcomes. The draft report will be reviewed with the Climate Change Advisory Committee. It will be posted to DEP web site on the Committee's Web page and included as part of in the updated Climate Change Action Plan in 2012.

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