



Blue Acres Bulletin - Climate Week 2023

Climate Week 2023 - We Can. We Will.

Climate Week is designed to provide the public with opportunities to learn about climate change and actions that can be taken to become more resilient and mitigate its impacts. This year's theme: ***We Can. We Will.***

"We can and we will continue to take bold steps to face climate change head on. We can and we will continue moving forward with science-based – often groundbreaking – initiatives and actions to both create a more resilient state and mitigate unavoidable impacts."

NJDEP Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette.

When It Rains, It Pours

New Jersey residents are becoming increasingly impacted by climate change, in the form of extreme weather events like heat waves, droughts, coastal flooding (NJ sea level has risen nearly twice the global average over the last 40 years) and inland flooding (fueled by increased precipitation and urban development). With warming atmospheric and ocean temperatures fueling wetter, stronger, and slower-moving storms New Jersey can expect to see an increase in flood frequency. NOAA estimates that each 1°F rise in temperature allows the atmosphere to retain [4% more water](#) so the problem is getting worse, not better.

In this issue:

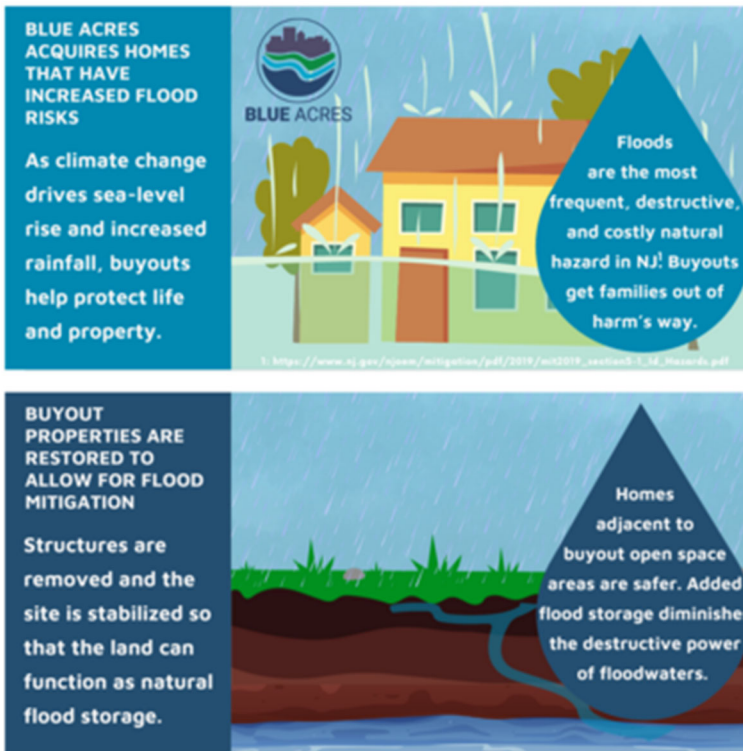
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About the DEP Office of Climate Resilience

The Office of Climate Resilience at NJDEP helps New Jersey communities make informed decisions about climate resilience. We coordinate across DEP programs and state agency partners to plan for the climate change impacts and hazards that will affect our communities, businesses, infrastructure, and natural resources.

Learn more about resilience resources, tools, and core programs run by the Office of Climate Resilience using the links below and keep an eye out for additional content in future NJDEP Weekly Updates!

- [Resilient NJ](#)
- [Blue Acres](#)



In the face of growing climate challenges, the [NJ Office of Climate Resilience \(OCR\)](#) and [Blue Acres](#) continue to work to encourage climate change mindfulness, empower resilience planning, advocate for climate vulnerable populations and encourage thoughtful adaptation.

Since its inception in 1995, Blue Acres as a voluntary buyout program has purchased 1077 homes in 32 municipalities across the state, totaling 438 acres of re-established open space and floodplain. With just twelve inches of floodwater, a single acre of floodplain can hold 330,000 gallons of water; so collectively Blue Acres properties can sequester over 144 million gallons of water that could otherwise present a danger to human life and property. As we continue to work towards a more climate-resilient future for New Jersey, it is important to remember that each restored acre represents countless families and communities safeguarded against future flood risks.

- [The Interagency Council on Climate Resilience](#)
- [NJ Coastal Management Program](#)

About the DEP Blue Acres program

Blue Acres is part of the DEP Office of Climate Resilience

Since its inception in 1995, Blue Acres has worked to better protect public safety and the environment by relocating New Jersey families whose homes are subject to repeated flooding and acquiring property for use as natural flood storage, parks, and community open space.

Today, DEP Blue Acres has two core missions:

Disaster Recovery: Blue Acres helps New Jersey residents whose homes have been damaged in flooding events, such as those whose homes were destroyed or damaged when the remnants of Tropical Storm Ida impacted New Jersey in September 2021.

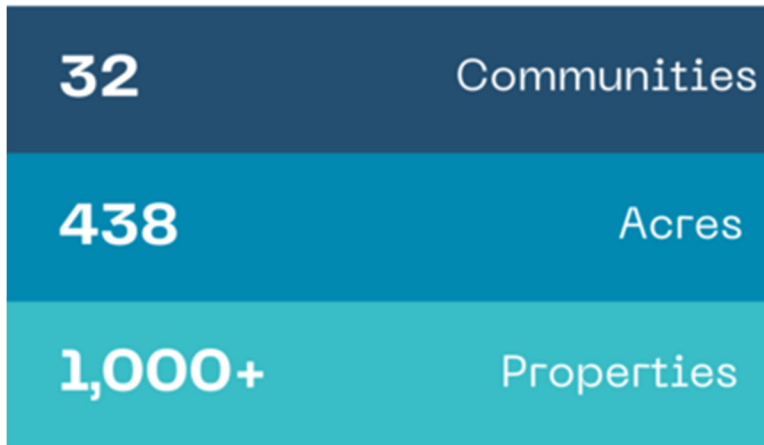
Preparedness: Blue Acres contributes to New Jersey's Climate Change Resilience Strategy through a proactive approach to guide state acquisition of lands that increases host community resilience through the strategic acquisition of lands that have been damaged, or may be prone to future damage, due to sea-level rise, storms, or storm-related flooding, or that may buffer

Climate Change & Blue Acres' Response



Climate change increases risk of severe storms and floods. The Blue Acres program works both reactively and proactively on community flood resilience.

Since 1995, Blue Acres has preserved land across...



The Blue Acres program is one of many efforts across NJDEP striving to protect New Jersey residents and our natural landscapes in the face of climate change. [You can see what else the department is doing and access climate related resources here.](#)

or protect other lands from such damage.

The Blue Acres website includes a [webpage for homeowners](#) interested in selling their flood-prone home and learning more about the buyout process steps.

Contact Blue Acres

DEP Blue Acres helps New Jersey residents and communities identify and avoid risks of flooding through strategic climate resilience planning and the state-led acquisition of flood-prone property.

Email: BlueAcres@dep.nj.gov Phone: (609) 940-4140

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is dedicated to protecting New Jersey's environment and public health. The agency prioritizes addressing climate change, protecting New Jersey's water, revitalizing its communities and managing and promoting its natural and historic resources.

For the most recent information, follow the DEP on Twitter [@NewJerseyDEP](#), Facebook [@newjerseydep](#), Instagram [@nj.dep](#), and LinkedIn [@newjerseydep](#), or visit www.nj.gov/dep.

Follow Commissioner LaTourette on Twitter and Instagram [@shawnlatur](#).



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