



The **Department of Environmental Protection** (DEP) protects environmental quality and public health throughout New Jersey. The Department's priorities include reducing and responding to climate change, protecting the State's water resources, revitalizing communities and protecting public health, and managing and promoting the State's natural and historic resources.

Agency Resilience Program in Action

The DEP seeks to include consideration and implementation of climate resilience in all of its decision-making and has successfully done so numerous times, notably through regulatory reforms, investments in water infrastructure systems, and innovative flood protection. Led by New Jersey's Chief Resilience Officer, the DEP Office of Climate Resilience staffs the Interagency Council on Climate Resilience, coordinates resilience action across DEP programs, and leads multiple resilience initiatives. Through collaborative partnerships with municipalities, federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations, the DEP's Office of Climate Resilience (OCR) works to address New Jersey's most pressing resilience issues. OCR's resilient community planning activities include providing direct assistance, guidance, and tools to communities seeking to address the impacts of climate change including sea-level rise, storm surge, extreme heat, and flooding from precipitation events.

New Jersey's coastal zone spans approximately 1,800 miles of coastline, 239 municipalities, and encompasses tidal and non-tidal ecosystems, cities, and rural landscapes.



The DEP is **updating coastal and inland floodplain land use rules and regulations to account for current and future climate conditions**, such as increased precipitation and sea-level rise.



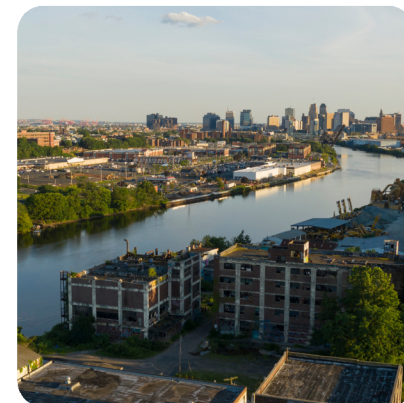
The DEP Division of Science and Research regularly **reviews, synthesizes, and compiles the latest climate change science and data** to ensure decision-making is based on the best-available information.



DEP **works collaboratively with federal partners including USACE, HUD, and FEMA to construct green and gray resilience infrastructure projects** that protect our coastal communities from sea-level rise and flooding.



DEP's **Ready to be Resilient Post-Construction Stormwater Management program** is helping communities modernize stormwater infrastructure and management strategies in the face of increased precipitation through a \$20 million investment from the American Rescue Plan.





Agency Resilience Program in Action (cont'd)



OCR's **Resilient NJ program** is a comprehensive technical assistance program providing resilience planning assistance to 42 municipalities to date, with more to come.



Through its broad-based climate literacy efforts, the DEP has partnered with the Jacques Cousteau NERR to establish the **MyCoast NJ** platform to engage citizen scientists in submitting photo evidence of coastal changes such as flooding and shoreline changes through innovative approaches, such as photo stations and works with the NJ State Council on the Arts through to offer the **Community-Based Art Grant Program** which partners local artists and community-based organizations to work together to educate the public about coastal risks.



The **New Jersey Coastal Management Program** partners with multiple federal agencies to support a sustainable, resilient coast through a network of efforts related to ocean planning, public access, wetlands, and coastal restoration. New Jersey uses a portion of its annual allocation of federal funding for Coastal Zone Management to offer resilience planning support to coastal municipalities. The program also leverages post-disaster funding through HUD CDBG-DR to fund large-scale regional planning in areas outside the coastal zone.

Partnerships & Interagency Efforts

New Jersey's **Chief Resilience Officer**, based out of the DEP, is tasked with leading the development and implementation of the Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy collaboratively with the Interagency Council on Climate Resilience, a council established to develop short- and long-term action plans that will promote the mitigation, adaptation, and resilience of New Jersey's economy, communities, infrastructure, and natural resources.

Blue Acres is New Jersey's nationally recognized buyout program that has acquired close to 1200 flood-prone properties since Hurricane Sandy in 2012. The program continues to be an important component of the State's disaster recovery strategy, while acknowledging that the best solution is to get people out of harm's way before disaster occurs. Blue Acres is exploring ways to expand its reach and assist homeowners and communities to understand and consider buyouts as part of a proactive effort to address their increasing risks from climate change.



This is a buyout of the Blue Acres program post-demolition where the floodplain is undergoing restoration to naturally mitigate flood risks.

