

Maryland Commission on Climate Change Adaptation & Response Working Group

2015 Work Plan DRAFT

A. Background

A key component of the Maryland's Climate Action Plan, released by the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC) in 2008, is the Phase I Adaptation Strategy for Sea Level Rise and Coastal Storms. A second strategy (Phase II) was released in 2011 as a compendium to the Climate Action Plan, outlining specific sector-based strategies to address changes in precipitation patterns and increased temperature and the likely impacts to human health, agriculture, forest and terrestrial ecosystems, bay and aquatic environments, water resources, and population growth and infrastructure. Together these two strategies lay out a compendium of 95 actions to adapt to climate change across a suite of social, environmental and economic sectors.

Between 2008 – 2014, the State as a whole made substantial progress to implement high-priority elements of Maryland's Phase I and II Adaptation Strategies. Chapter 8 of Maryland's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (2012), the [Adaptation Update](#), provided detailed information on state agency implementation efforts to date, along with short, medium and long-term priorities for future action.

B. Strengthening Climate Action in Maryland

On November 19, 2014, Governor Martin O'Malley issued Executive Order (01.01.2014.14), to expand the membership, mission and work of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC). As one of four working groups organized under the MCCC, the EO establishes the following charge for the Adaptation and Response Working Group (ARWG):

- Strengthen and maintain existing State action plans to further address, prepare for and adapt to the consequences of climate change;
- Reestablish the Adaptation and Response Working Group, as needed;
- Convene regular Working Group meetings to ensure that sufficient progress is being made across all sectors and communities in Maryland; and
- Establish a comprehensive and accountable annual work plan that set annual goals and performance benchmarks, and prioritizes new and existing climate change adaptation actions and initiatives.

Under the umbrella of the MCCC, the efforts of the ARWG will be undertaken in conjunction with the efforts of the MCCC's Mitigation (MWG), Scientific and Technical (STWG), and Education, Communication and Outreach (ECO) Working Groups.

C. 2015 Work Plan

Executive Order 01.01.2014.14 outlines a number of charges for the MCCC that will be achieved through the specific work performed by the ARWG. To achieve the overall objectives and specific tasks identified for the ARWG, the following Work Plan is proposed for the 2015 calendar year.

Objective #1: Work with the MCCC to establish ARWG Action Priorities

Task #1: Solicit feedback and concurrence from the MCCC on implementation priorities, deliverables, and performance measurement from among the following list of proposed actions:

- Develop broader public/private and State/local partnerships to better address the consequences of climate change, and to better communicate with and educate citizens about the urgency of the challenge and options to address it.
- Address the challenge that low income and otherwise vulnerable communities will likely be disproportionately impacted by climate change.
- Assess the impacts that climate change will likely have on the State's economy, revenues, and investment decisions.
- Recommend short and longer-term strategies and initiatives to better address the consequences of climate change.
- Deliver tools and assistance to local governments to support community-scale climate vulnerability assessments and the development and integration of specific strategies for enhancing resilience to the impacts of climate change into local plans and ordinances.

Lead Agency: MCCC/ARWG

Deliverable: ARWG Action Priorities (Tier 1-3)

Timeframe: January 21, 2015

Task #2: Develop specific/targeted work plans to undertake efforts in support of identified ARWG Action Priorities.

Lead Agency: ARWG

Deliverable: Tier-One Priority Work Plans

Timeframe: March 13, 2015

Objective #2: Undertake specific implementation efforts to meet EO requirements for Enhanced State Action

Task #1: The Department of Information Technology (DoIT), with support from Departments of Planning and Natural Resources, will create an online climate data and information portal to increase public access to the latest climate science, projections and technical resources.

Lead Agencies: DoIT, MDP, DNR

Deliverable: Online Climate Data and Information Portal

Timeline: To be established with guidance from ARWG and MCCC

Task #2: Review State planning, regulatory and fiscal programs to identify and recommend actions to more fully integrate the consideration of the impacts of climate change; including sea level rise, increased precipitation and temperature, and extreme weather.

Task #2a: For planning, regulatory and fiscal programs that currently include climate considerations, quantify and assess performance and effectiveness; and recommend programmatic, regulatory or fiscal changes that would serve to enhance Maryland’s preparedness and resilience to future climate change impacts; and ensure both wise and sustainable use of state fiscal resources; and

Task #2b: Identify and recommend specific policy, planning regulatory and fiscal changes for existing programs that do not currently address climate change impacts.

Lead Agencies: DNR, MDE, MDP, DBM, DGS

Deliverable: Policy Analysis with specific policy, planning, regulatory and fiscal recommendations

Timeline: To be established with guidance from ARWG and MCCC

Task #3: Recommend Maryland Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) guidelines that require consideration of climate change factors, including both mitigation and adaptation.

Lead Agency: DNR

Deliverable: Maryland Environmental Policy Act - Climate Change Guidelines

Timeline: To be established with guidance from ARWG and MCCC

Objective #3: Establish 2015-2016 State Agency Priorities

Task #1: The ARWG will work with existing State Agency leads to review implementation progress to date and establish revised short, medium and longer priorities (see attachment for existing priorities established in 2012), timelines and performance tracking and measurement protocols.

<i>ARWG Sector</i>	<i>Lead State Agency</i>	<i>Agency Lead</i>
Human Health	DHMH	Clifford Mitchell
Agriculture	MDA	Susan Payne
Sea Level Rise & Coastal Storms	DNR	Zoë Johnson
Forest & Terrestrial Ecosystems	DNR	Don Van Hassent
Bay & Aquatic Ecosystems	DNR	Bruce Michael
Water Resources	MDE	Lyn Poorman
Growth & Infrastructure	MDP/MDOT	Jason Dubow/Don Halligan

D. Reporting Requirements

In accordance with the provisions of EO 01.01.2014.14, DNR will provide quarterly progress updates on State agency actions through ClimateStat sessions. The ARWG will also provide an update to the Maryland Commission on Climate Change on or before November 15, 2015, on the status of the ARWG

work plan efforts, including future plans and recommendations for legislation, if any, for consideration by the General Assembly.

E. Membership

The ARWG oversight committee is comprised of representatives of the following state agencies: DNR, MDE, MDP, MHT, DHCD, DoIT, MES, MEMA, DBM, DHMH, MDOT, MPA, SHA, MDA, MIA, MEA, DGS and the University System of Maryland. Since its inception in 2008, the ARWG has also formed a number of sector-based working groups to assist with implementation of specific action items, including the development of the Phase I and II Adaptation Strategies which involved the following working groups: human health; agriculture; sea level rise and coastal storms; forest and terrestrial ecosystems; bay and aquatic ecosystems; water resources; and, growth and infrastructure. In 2013, DNR also convened the Climate Change and Coast Smart Construction Working Group to assist with the development of siting and design guidelines for state-funding infrastructure. Both state agency and stakeholder representatives participated on each of the ARWG's underlying working groups.

F. Meeting Schedule

ARWG meetings will be held quarterly at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and be open to both MCCC members and stakeholders. Meeting logistics including time, conference room location, and meeting materials will be announced and available on the website:

<http://climatechange.maryland.gov/adaptation/>

For additional information, contact:

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