



**Adaptation & Response Working Group  
Priority Policy Recommendations  
June 12, 2008**

<b>Vision: Reduction of Impact to Existing and Future Growth and Development</b>				
<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Qualitative Benefit</b>	<b>Implementation Mechanism</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>
Integrated Planning	Require the integration of coastal erosion, coastal storm and sea level rise adaptation and response planning strategies into existing state and local policies and programs.	High	Local: Legislative Action State: Executive Action	DNR MDP
Adaptation of Vulnerable Coastal Infrastructure	Develop and implement State and local adaptation policies (i.e., protect, retreat, abandon) for vulnerable public and private sector infrastructure.	High	New State/Local policy and/or regulation	DNR MDOT
Building Code Revisions & Infrastructure Design Standards	Strengthen building codes and construction techniques for new infrastructure and buildings in vulnerable coastal areas.	High	Legislative Action	DHCD MDOT MDE

<b>Vision: Financial and Economic Well-Being</b>				
<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Qualitative Benefit</b>	<b>Implementation Mechanism</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>
Resource-Based Industry Economic Initiative	Develop and implement long-range plans to minimize the economic impacts of sea level rise to natural resource-based industries.	Medium	Further Study	DNR MDA
Climate Change Insurance Advisory Committee	Establish an independent Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee to advise the State of the risks that climate change poses to the availability and affordability of insurance.	Medium	Task Force	MIA DNR
Disclosure	Develop a <i>Maryland Sea Level Rise Disclosure and Advisory Statement</i> to inform prospective coastal property purchasers of the potential impacts that climate change and sea level rise may pose to a particular piece of property.	High	Legislative Action	DHCD DNR
Green Economic Development Initiative	Recruit, foster, and promote market opportunities related to climate change adaptation and response.	Medium	Task Force	DBED DNR

<b>Vision: Protection of Human Health, Safety and Welfare</b>				
<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Qualitative Benefit</b>	<b>Implementation Mechanism</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>
Inter-Agency Coordination	Strengthen coordination and management across Agencies responsible for human health and safety.	High	New programmatic direction	DHMH MEMA
Health Impact Assessments	Conduct Health Impact Assessments to evaluate the public health consequences of climate change and sea level rise-related projects and/or policies.	High	New State policy	DHMH MEMA
Vector-borne Surveillance and Control	Develop a coordinated plan to assure adequacy of Vector-borne Surveillance and Control Programs.	Medium	New programmatic direction	DHMH MDA DNR

**Vision: Natural Resource Protection**

<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Qualitative Benefit</b>	<b>Implementation Mechanism</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>
Natural Resource Protection Areas	Identify high priority protection areas and strategically and cost-effectively direct protection and restoration actions.	High	New programmatic direction	DNR MDE
Forest and Wetland Protection	Develop and implement a package of appropriate regulations, financial incentives, educational, outreach, and enforcement approaches to retain and expand forests and wetlands in areas suitable for long-term survival.	High	New State/Local policy and/or regulation	DNR MDE
Shoreline and Buffer Area Management	Promote and support sustainable shoreline and buffer area management practices.	High	New programmatic direction	DNR MDE

**Adaptation and Response Toolbox**

<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Qualitative Benefit</b>	<b>Implementation Mechanism</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>
Integrated Observation Systems	Strengthen federal, state, local, and regional observation systems to improve the detection of biological, physical, and chemical responses to climate change and sea level rise.	High	New programmatic direction	DNR MSGIC
GIS Mapping, Modeling & Monitoring	Update and maintain state-wide sea level rise mapping, modeling, and monitoring products.	High	New programmatic direction	DNR MSGIC
Public Awareness, Outreach, Training & Capacity Building	Utilize new and existing educational, outreach, training and capacity building programs to disseminate information and resources related to climate change and sea level rise.	High	New programmatic direction	DNR + ALL

**Future Steps & Directions**

<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Qualitative Benefit</b>	<b>Implementation Mechanism</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>
Local Government Planning Guidance	Develop state-wide sea level rise planning guidance to advise adaptation and response planning at the local level.	High	New programmatic direction	DNR MDP
Adaptation-Stat	Develop and implement a system of performance measures to track Maryland's success at reducing its vulnerability to climate change and sea level rise.	Medium	New programmatic direction	DNR MDE
Future Adaptation Strategy Development	Pursue the development of adaptation strategies to reduce climate change vulnerability among affected sectors, including agriculture, forestry, water resources, aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and human health.	Medium	New programmatic direction	UM DNR MDE MDA DHMH