Addressing
Climate Change
in EPA's Office of
Water

A CONVERSATION
ON DEVELOPING
OFFICE OF WATER'S
CLIMATE
ADAPTATION
IMPLEMENTATION
PLAN

### Agenda

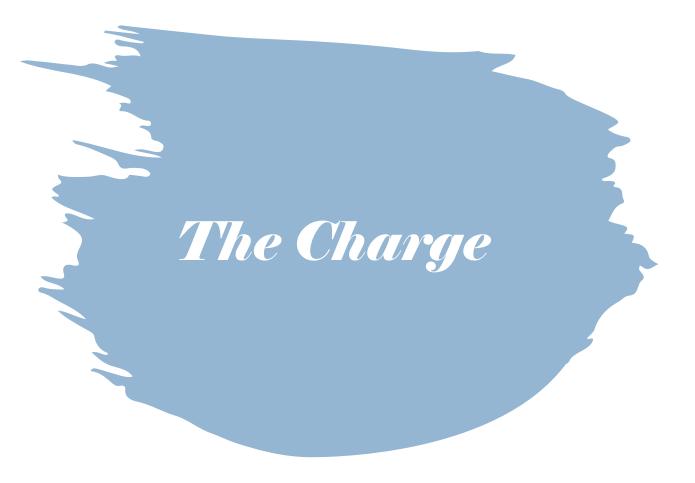
- Background
- Development Process
- Goals and Priority Actions
- Moving Forward
- Discussion











As a requirement of EPA's 2021 Climate Adaptation Action Plan and Policy Statement on Climate Adaptation, under the direction of E.O. 14008, all Regions and National Programs were instructed to develop a Climate Adaptation Implementation Plan to proactively incorporate climate adaptation throughout all programs, policies, rules, and operations, while working to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and social injustice.

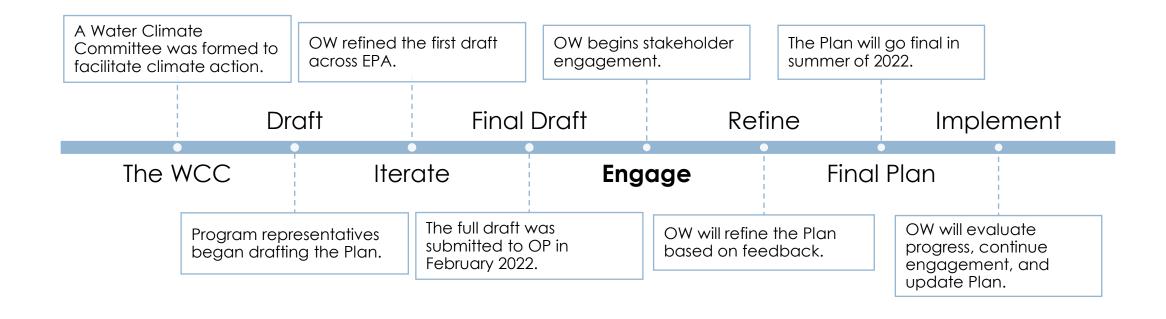




# The Process

WORK TO DATE

### Timeline



### Core Components of the Plan

- The Plan will span FY22-FY26 and be revised adaptively over time as needed.
- Five specific items must be included in all implementation plans:
  - Designation of a Senior Career Leader responsible for overseeing climate adaptation activities in the office.
  - A Climate Vulnerability Assessment for the Office's programs.
  - Priority actions that will be taken to address the five Agency-wide priorities identified in EPA's 2021 Climate Adaptation Action Plan.
  - A training plan for enhancing staff knowledge about climate adaptation.
  - Identification of science needs.
- Measures will be used to assess progress with implementing each individual action.

### Categories of Core Program Vulnerabilities

- Critical Water Infrastructure
- Availability of Water for Human Use
- Waterborne Illness and Water Treatment Needs
- Aquatic Ecosystem Health
- Transportation and Energy Infrastructure Interfacing with Water
- Impacts of Climate Change on Vulnerable Communities and Populations:
  - Overburdened, Underserved, and Disadvantaged Communities
  - Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples
  - Territories and Island States

### Research is needed to inform...

- Advancing Modeling Methods to Include and Regionalize Climate Change Information
- Building Resilient Water Infrastructure
- Supporting Climate-Smart Investments with Economic and Finance Data
- Safeguarding Human Health and Community Well-being

- Supporting Community and Watershed-scale Adaptation
- Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems and their Services
- Mitigating and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Evaluating the Nexus of Water Quality and Availability





# Draft Goals and Priority Actions

AN OVERVIEW

### Framing the Draft Priority Actions

#### Goal 1: Improve the Climate Resilience of America's Water Infrastructure

- Deploy Grant and Loan Programs to Advance Climate Objectives
- Incorporate Climate Planning Resources into Technical Assistance Programs
- Promote Resilient Infrastructure Solutions

### Framing the Draft Priority Actions

### Goal 2: Protect the Nation's Waters from the Impacts of a Changing Climate

- Integrate Climate Considerations in CWA and SDWA Actions and Programs
- Invest in Ecosystem Protection and Restoration
- Leverage Strategic Research

### Framing the Draft Priority Actions

## Goal 3: Advance the Adaptive Capacity of the Water Sector and the Climate Knowledge of All Communities and Decisionmakers

- Support Assessment of Climate Risks and Climate-Informed Decision Making
- Improve Availability of Data and Information to Support Climate-Informed Decisions

### Addressing Climate Beyond the Plan

- Monitoring & Assessment
- Innovative Finance
- Stormwater & Green/Natural Infrastructure
- Watershed Restoration & Protection
- Nonpoint Source (NPS) Control
- Wetlands Protection & Restoration
- Water Quality Standards
- Drinking Water & Source Water Protection
- Water, Efficiency, Conservation & Re-use
- Water Supply Planning
- Drought Mitigation & Coordination
- Watershed Protection

- Integrated Water Resource Management
- Ecosystem Connectivity
- Coastal Management
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
- Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)
- Disaster Response & Recovery
- Hazard Mitigation
- Research, Data, & Tools
- Partnerships Programs
- Collaboration with Diverse Partners
- Public Engagement Activities





### Open Discussion

- Do you have feedback to help shape OW's proposed goals and priority actions, or actions to recommend we consider for the Plan?
- How can we work together to ensure the Plan has maximum usefulness and applicability for all states?
- What are the main hurdles to doing more than we all currently are? What are challenges states have faced due to the actions OW is or is not performing?
- What are some of the ways in which OW can make climate information more accessible to the public, and what specific types of information do you need in terms of decision support?
- How can OW continue a meaningful conversation with water community stakeholders over the coming months and years ahead?

### Thank you

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