



DHS Climate Action Plan

Addendum

June 2014



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IMPLEMENTING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION WITHIN THE HOMELAND SECURITY LANDSCAPE

According to the recent release of the Third National Climate Assessment, parts of the United States will experience an increase in frequency and intensity of hurricanes, massive flooding, excessively high temperatures, wildfires, severe downpours, severe droughts, storm surge and sea-level rise throughout the 21st Century. Other efforts, including the 2014 Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, describe an increasing risk from natural events and conclude that climate change is amongst the top homeland security risks.

As a result of the uncertainties associated with climate change affects, historically successful strategies for managing resources and infrastructure will become less effective over time requiring new paradigms, policies and procedures. Although decision-makers routinely make complex decisions under uncertain conditions, decision-making in the context of climate change can be especially challenging. Through the implementation strategies outlined in this document, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) offers means to help improve decision-making in the context of climate variability and change.

Decision support processes include topics such as decision-making frameworks that include decision support tools. These approaches can help evaluate the costs and benefits of alternative actions regarding amounts of risk associated with different adaptation options. DHS will continue to aid counties, states, tribes, territories, business and industry in the decision process to consider the role of alternative institutions, infrastructure and governance structures. In particular, DHS will help them consider iterative decision processes that incorporate multiple options, cost and social impacts of adaptation, and improve preparedness and mitigation strategies in the context of rapid changes in environmental conditions.

The U.S. Coast Guard developed its Arctic Strategy in May 2013 and built strategies around the amplified changes that the Arctic is predicted to see from climate change. Melting sea ice represents both opportunity and danger for citizens and infrastructure exposed to climate change. The Arctic Strategy is critically important as the changing Arctic conditions simultaneously present national security threats and opportunities for economic growth, in addition to impacts to natural resources and the health and sustainability of living marine resources.

DHS recognizes that these implementation strategies will require careful and deliberate planning, and many of such efforts will span decades. Priority for implementation efforts has been given to addressing informational needs, health concerns and decision support for all stakeholders.

THE DHS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AT A GLIMPSE

In 2012, the Department of Homeland Security published the DHS Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Roadmap to satisfy the requirements of Executive Order 13514, *Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance*. Its chief intent was to integrate CCA into both the culture and operations of the Department. Through the CCA Roadmap, DHS began a multi-year effort to account for climate change and extreme weather in the context of its missions, programs, plans and policies.

In 2013, DHS revised the 2012 CCA Roadmap to meet the objectives and further guidance in the new Executive Order 13656, *Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change*. With its focus shifting from inward (i.e., Departmental programs) to outward (i.e., national preparedness), the revised plan also considers DHS programs that serve the public, protect critical infrastructure, and secure the nation's economy. DHS is composed of more than 240,000 employees across 22 components with thousands of programs and many mission-essential functions. Many of the most important programs have direct linkages to the public, and many require external stakeholder involvement to be effective.

The DHS Climate Action Plan is comprised of 36 implementation actions, which includes 18 near term (fiscal year [FY] 2014-FY 2015) and 18 long term (up to 10 years away) actions. The DHS Plan also aligns to and helps implement the vision of The President's Climate Action Plan. Announced in June 2013, The President's Plan represents a landmark commitment by the Federal government to combat the effects of climate change. Some of the underlying themes from The President's Plan included in the DHS Plan are:

- Increasing interactions with state, local, tribal and territorial governments to combat and adapt to climate change;
- Promoting resilient infrastructure through partnerships with the public and private sector;
- Developing online tools for stakeholders to make risk-informed decisions; and
- Devising, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services, community health planning templates that account for climate change.

ENSURING IMPLEMENTATION

The Department ensures execution of the DHS Plan through a body created in March 2011 known as the Climate Change Adaptation Executive Steering Committee (ESC). The group convenes quarterly and is composed of climate change leads from 16 DHS components. This senior-level body provides implementation oversight while day-to-day coordination is conducted through the ESC's tactical arm, the DHS CCA Director Group. This body meets regularly and creates sub-groups to focus on key actions, as necessary.

This Implementation Strategy identifies steps to successfully execute on the DHS Climate Action Plan. It outlines the 18 near term actions identified in the DHS Plan for FY 2014 and FY 2015, and includes specific tasks and operational milestones.

DHS prioritized six of the 18 near term actions for FY 2014:

1. Launch a DHS public-facing Climate Change Adaptation section on the DHS.gov website.
2. Support the Council on Environmental Quality in conducting a Federal level Exercise on Climate Change Adaptation.
3. Promote appropriate building standards and practices.
4. Work with the Departments of Health & Human Services, Agriculture, Defense, and other Federal partners to ensure that adverse effects of climate change on health are incorporated into the Community Health Resilience Initiative.
5. Create a Decision Support Planning template to inform risk decisions at the operational level for all stakeholders using U.S. Global Change Research Program data.
6. Assess exposure of DHS facilities to flood risk.

NEAR TERM IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

1.0 Communications Actions

1.1 Establish the Department's Strategic Communications Plan for its work on the Climate Change Adaptation.

The Office of Public Affairs (OPA) will create a singular, coordinated Climate Change Adaptation Strategic Communications Plan with the support of the CCA Director Group. The communications plan will help educate the public on the homeland security implications of climate change and extreme weather, and measures that may be taken to mitigate the projected impacts. It will also address the needs of national, regional, state and local, territorial and tribal stakeholders.

Major Actions by Date:

- A draft plan was submitted to the Assistant Secretary for review in May 2014 and the review is ongoing.

Projected Completion: August 2014

1.2 Launch a DHS Public-facing Climate Change Adaptation section on the DHS.gov website.

OPA will create a climate adaptation presence on the external DHS home page. The climate change adaptation page will serve as an online clearinghouse for all DHS information on climate change. Content for the portal will be provided by individual components of DHS. The page will include Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) addressing particular stakeholder groups. For instance, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) previously prepared FAQs for recipients of disaster assistance from the Stafford Act.

Major Actions by Date:

- The climate change webpage is anticipated to be launched by the end of summer 2014.

Projected Completion: Summer 2014

1.3 Implement a Department-wide Climate Change Adaptation Education Plan.

DHS will implement a Department-wide education plan to increase awareness and educate employees on the risks and impacts of climate change and severe weather. The intent is for employees to understand the future impacts of climate change on the Department's mission and programs. To develop the education plan, DHS will work with subject matter experts from across the agency to determine what materials and delivery methods are appropriate.

Major Actions by Date:

- Develop the CCA education plan by the end of FY 2014.
- Implement the CCA education plan by the end of FY 2015.

Projected Completion: End of FY 2015

1.4 Ensure that the emergency management workforce understands future risks considerations and how they may affect program implementation.

FEMA will develop targeted training and information resources to help emergency management staff better understand connections between climate change and emergency management programs and functions. FEMA will also increase its internal communications to employees regarding CCA and provide increased opportunities for education and training related to future risks associated with climate change.

Major Actions by Date:

- FEMA will develop a Comprehensive Preparedness Guide that translates projected climate change impacts into specific hazard risk considerations for use by emergency managers, community planners, local authorities, and the private sector. The guide will cover the varying degrees to which climate change may affect planning, mitigation strategies, and risk assessments that can be used to better prepare for and respond to long term changes. The initial draft of the guide will be completed by summer 2014.
- FEMA completed a draft CCA Internal Communications Plan for its employees in May 2014.
- The Internal Communications Plan will be finalized in June 2014.
- FEMA will create slides, talking points, FAQs, lessons learned, and best practices, and make the information available to employees by September 2014.

Projected Completion: Ongoing

2.0 External Outreach and Partnership Development Actions

- 2.1 In collaboration with the Executive Steering Committee, FEMA's National Exercise Division will support the Council on Environmental Quality and National Security Staff in conducting a Federal Level Exercise on Climate Change Adaptation.

The exercise will integrate the information contained in the National Climate Assessment; incorporate existing Federal department and agency climate change adaptation planning; and satisfy Executive Order requirements to engage Federal executive branch and partners in discussions on the effects of climate change. This exercise series will examine climate change risk management across the whole community to enhance national preparedness and resilience. The series will include the following three elements: a Climate Adaptation Plan Workshop, an exportable regional exercise package, and a Senior Level Exercise.

Major Actions by Date:

- A workshop with Federal climate change subject matter experts and planners was held in May 2014.
- In September 2014, a Senior Level Exercise will take place to include members of the White House Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience.
- FEMA will develop exportable exercise packages for whole community stakeholders in FY 2015.

Projected Completion: Ongoing and replicable

- 2.2 Host a summit to promote building codes adoption.

The National Institute of Building Science (NIBS), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), and DHS hosted a Resilience Summit promoting building codes adoption on September 19, 2013. DHS will sponsor a forum to continue the dialogue in the latter half of FY 2014 to include representatives from local governments, construction companies, private insurers, homeowners, and banks/lenders. Collaboration with Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) will ensure appropriate State, Local, Tribal and Territorial (SLTT) participants are invited.

Major Actions by Date:

- The summit was held on September 19, 2013.
- An organizing meeting took place in October 2013 with CEQ, NIBS, the National Institute Standards and Technology (NIST), and DHS components, including FEMA, National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD), Office of Policy, and Science and Technology Directorate.
- Weekly organizing meetings with the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety are occurring March through June 2014. Munich Re, the world's largest risk reinsurer, is called upon as necessary.

- In March 2014, DHS representatives convened a Resilient Baldwin County (Alabama) focus group to ascertain ways to promote building codes. Additional focus groups were convened in Alabama and Mississippi in June 2014 to discuss incentives to build resiliently.
- Surveys will be conducted with participants in the Resilience STAR™ pilot in the Gulf Coast in June 2014.
- In August 2014, an After Action Report memorializing this effort will be ready.

Projected Completion: August 2014

2.3 Promote appropriate building standards and practices.

NPPD and FEMA will promote climate adaptation planning to enhance critical infrastructure resilience and community preparedness. This includes promoting climate-ready building standards by developing best practices with critical infrastructure partners and construction industry stakeholders. In 2015, they will develop guidance and work with the state and local planning entities to influence adoption of building codes/standards and best practices related to anticipated climate change impacts on commercial and industrial building structures, particularly related to critical infrastructure.

Major Actions by Date:

- DHS will study the Resilience STAR™ pilot program to determine applicability for infrastructure resilience more broadly. They will also study infrastructure resilience guidelines from Hurricane Sandy rebuilding strategy for applying the infrastructure resilience guidelines and practices nationally.
- In collaboration with NIST and NIBS, DHS will explore ways and means to lessen the impact of climate change on critical infrastructure.
- DHS will inform storage and hosting requirements to maintain best practices and building code standards. DHS will determine whether the climate and data tools working group can host the information on its portal.
- To encourage adoption of appropriate building codes, DHS will identify additional market place opportunities.
- In coordination with the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, DHS will encourage the continued adoption of Federal Flood Risk Management Standards to guide Federal investments in buildings and infrastructure, considering future risks associated with climate change.

Projected Completion: FY 2015, Quarter 2

2.4 Integrate Climate Change Adaptation into the Department's engagement agenda with SLTT partners.

This effort will be led by OPA with the support of IGA who will collaborate with SLTT stakeholders and partners.

Major Actions by Date:

IGA will incorporate CCA messaging into its outreach and engagement efforts in FY15 with State, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) elected and appointed officials, and the national stakeholder associations that represent them – including the National Governor’s Association, U.S. Conference of Mayors, National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, and others. This outreach may include the distribution of press releases and strategic documents, the incorporation of CCA-related messaging into IGA engagement efforts with these stakeholder associations, and facilitating the participation of DHS speakers at national association conferences and task force meetings for the purposes of discussing CCA issues

Projected Completion: This will be an ongoing strategic collaboration initiative

2.5 Actively engage the private sector regarding Climate Change Adaptation Planning.

NPPD, FEMA, IGA, and the Private Sector Office will coordinate on an engagement strategy that brings in the private sector for climate adaptation efforts.

Major Actions by Dates:

- DHS will develop a Climate Adaptation approach that incorporates the existing National Infrastructure Protection Plan structures and engages state, local and community planners to address the risks of climate change.
- DHS will pilot a place-based engagement approach for addressing adaptation planning.
- The Department will revise and finalize a strategy-based pilot project.
- DHS will submit and execute the strategy in a coordinated manner.

Projected Completion: End of FY 2014

2.6 Adopt a Whole Community approach to building partnerships

This effort focuses on encouraging dialog, collaboration and action between the emergency management community and the critical infrastructure community, which includes private and public owners and operators of infrastructure; state, local, tribal and territorial governments; the Federal government; regional entities; and non-governmental organizations. Actions within this area will focus on developing an integrated engagement approach that connects the FEMA community (state and local), the critical infrastructure community, as well as homeland security advisors, associations, and other entities to address the impacts of a changing climate. This action will be supported and coordinated by many stakeholders in the Federal government.

Major Actions by Date:

- Execute the coordinated engagement strategy defined in Section 2.5.

Projected Completion: This will be an ongoing effort that coordinates FEMA and NPPD initiatives, as applicable, throughout FY2015.

3.0 Health and International Outreach Actions

3.1 Proactively evaluate State, Local, Tribal and Territorial (SLTT) climate change medical first responder disaster preparedness activities and ensure DHS has the capacity to provide appropriate response without compromising the Department's mission.

Major Actions by Date:

- The Office of Health Affairs will create a plan that will facilitate the integration of Climate Change related hazards into SLTT EMS disaster preparedness activities.
- The Workforce Health Resilience Group is currently developing milestones for this action.
- The Workforce Health Resilience Group will develop training, education, and policy requirements from possible climate change impacts.

Projected Completion: 2014

3.2 Incorporate relevant information on climate change into bio-surveillance analysis and coordinate dissemination of this information to a broader Federal audience to improve situational awareness.

Major Actions by Date:

DHS will incorporate changing geographic distribution of insect vectors in biological event or forecasting reports of vector borne diseases.

Projected Completion: End of 2014

3.3 Conduct a Departmental review of the effects of climate change on mass migration.

DHS will conduct a migration assessment and project influx of applications and border crossings from the impact of climate change; this will be completed in a collaborate effort with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), Office of Operations Coordination and Planning, Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. A mass migration plan has been developed, and a plan for increased operations planning of mass migration is under development.

Major Actions by Date:

- Climate change effects on mass migration will be addressed by revising the DHS Maritime Migration Plan. The revisions will be completed by the Senior Oversight Group and Planning Oversight Group. The kickoff meeting was held May 13, 2014.
- Meetings will ensue through summer and fall until the revised plan is ready for the Secretary's signature.
- **Projected Completion:** End of 2014

4.0 Analysis and Decision Support Actions

4.1 Integrate Climate Change Adaptation into complex event modeling by collaborating with regional and SLTT climate research groups for data to support accurate forecasts of hazards affected by climate change.

The Science & Technology Directorate, through the National Protection and Programs Directorate – Infrastructure Protection (NPPD-IP) Research & Development (R&D) requirements, will seek to integrate climate change science into complex risk analysis modeling for critical infrastructure at the asset, system and regional level by collaborating with regional planning entities and SLTT climate adaptation groups for requirements to support accurate risk forecasting of hazards affected by climate change. In addition, S&T and NPPD-IP will seek to merge infrastructure risk assessment and whole community risks into a coherent risk informed process utilizing existing FEMA processes, such as the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA).

Major Actions by Dates:

- DHS will develop a coordinated DHS requirements process for R&D.
- DHS will identify R&D requirements to develop or update existing tools.
- Using the FEMA THIRA process, DHS will identify potential applicability.
- DHS will test and track results from THIRA technical assistance in the 2015 THIRA submissions to identify whether infrastructure risk has been successfully attributed.
- DHS will pilot a risk assessment methodology for core infrastructure sectors in the drinking water sector to enable communities to aggregate and rank risk and mitigation strategies with and across sectors and the community.

Projected Completion: FY 2015, Quarter 2

4.2. Create a Decision Support Planning template to inform risk decision at the operational level of all stakeholders using U.S. Global Change Research Program data.

NPPD and FEMA will work together to consider merging critical infrastructure risk into existing FEMA programs such as Preparedness, THIRA, and Mitigation. NPPD seeks to develop a risk-based informed decision support process for critical infrastructure and emergency management stakeholders that will enable all hazards risk-based decisions that include climate change to inform mitigation strategies. The decision support process will investigate the use of existing FEMA risk processes utilized at the state and local levels. DHS will validate this process with Federal and SLTT partners for implementing risk-informed adaptation strategies for climate change at the Federal, state, local, and private sector level.

Major Actions by Dates:

- Conducted workshops to identify core capabilities that support climate adaptation and infrastructure resilience
- Develop drafted integrated approach for climate adaptation and infrastructure resilience
- Study the risk management processes for emergency management and critical infrastructure community stakeholders to identify potential risk-informed processes to complement Preparedness and/or Mitigation risk analysis processes

Projected Completion: FY 2015, Quarter 3

5.0 Policy, Strategy, and Planning Actions

5.1 Assess exposure of DHS facilities to flood risk.

To determine exposure of DHS facilities to the impacts of climate change, the Department will begin by developing a methodology to assess which properties are susceptible to flood risk. The Management Directorate's Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer will coordinate with FEMA to obtain Geographic Information Systems floodplain information on special flood hazard zones (1%), determine which properties are in the floodplain, and identify facility-related flood potential risks and impacts.

Major Actions by Dates:

- DHS will develop the initial assessment and prioritization process by the end of FY 2015.
- DHS will determine exposure to changing risks by the end of FY 2015.
- DHS will develop a performance measurement system to evaluate the effectiveness of the mitigation strategies employed at DHS-owned facilities by the end of FY 2015.

Projected Completion: End of FY 2015

5.2 Incorporate climate change considerations into DHS policies, programs, planning and operations to inform, inspire, initiate, and implement policy and programmatic changes.

The Climate Change Adaptation Executive Steering Committee will coordinate and collaborate on Climate Change Adaptation activities across DHS. The Committee sanctions monthly Director Group meetings and quarterly ESC meetings to ensure all components are adapting climate change into their planning and programs.

Major Actions by Dates:

- In March 2014, the revised draft DHS CCA Policy was shared with the CCA Director Group for review and comment.
- From March through May 2014 the draft was reviewed and updated by the Director Group.
- In June 2014, the policy will route through formal channels for the Secretary's signature and submission to the White House.
- Between March and June 2014, a workgroup convened frequently to address E.O. 13653 (Section 2) in preparation for submission to the White House.
- The Section 2 workgroup will be codified in July 2014 by the ESC and operate as an ongoing entity to examine all areas relevant to this action.

Projected Completion: FY 2015

5.3 Ensure accountability for implementation of near and long term actions. Staff responsible for implementing actions from the DHS Climate Action Plan will have performance goals adopted into their perspective Employee Performance Plans in FY 2014.

Future CCA Director Group meetings will encompass implementation strategies for accomplishing long term action items.

Major Actions by Date:

- The July 2014 meeting of the Director Group will include discussion on how to approach and ensure accountability (e.g. Secretarial Memo to Component Heads requesting Performance Plans be updated in compliance with this objective from the DHS Climate Action Plan).
- The Executive Steering Committee will be asked for formal approval of recommended approach in the August 2014 meeting.
- In September 2014, notifications will be made pursuant to this activity.

Projected Completion: FY 2015, Quarter 1

6.0 Arctic Actions

- 6.1 Implement the 2013 United States Coast Guard Arctic Strategy and lead interagency implementation of the seven actions assigned to DHS in the Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for the Arctic Region (IP NSAR).

As identified in the USCG's strategy, USCG will utilize a "One DHS" approach for operations in the Arctic region and adaptation to climate change. The Office of Policy and USCG will work together to ensure that the seven implementation actions assigned to DHS in the IP NSAR are coordinated with interagency partners for completion. These two high priorities are combined into the below action items.

Major Actions by Date:

- Efforts are ongoing to enhance Operation Arctic Shield and improve Maritime Domain Awareness.
- DHS continues to support the efforts to recapitalize Polar Icebreaking.
- Efforts are ongoing to Improve Arctic communications capabilities.
- Efforts are ongoing to Continue International Maritime Organization Polar Code Development.
- DHS will institute an Arctic Coast Guard Forum in 2014.
- DHS will establish an Arctic Policy Board by 2015.
- The Department will support U.S. Chairmanship of the Arctic Council (2015-2017).
- Efforts are ongoing to establish a Center for Arctic Strategy and Policy.
- DHS continues to Promote Waterways Management.
- Efforts are ongoing to create an Arctic Fusion Center.
- DHS is creating an Arctic Maritime Assistance Coordination Center.

Projected Completion: Ongoing

E.O. 13653 “ONE DHS” RESPONSE TO SECTION 2

A number of DHS components and offices are currently involved in climate change activities as identified in the DHS Climate Action Plan. DHS activities represent current and planned efforts. Each component or office is actively engaged in ensuring program success to ensure the Nation is prepared for the ongoing challenges associated with a changing climate.

The DHS Climate Change Director’s Group, composed of representatives from across the Agency, directed each component/office involved in climate change activities to review the requirements stated in Section 2 of the President’s Action Plan and provide information on compliance. At the present time, the majority of component/office programs and initiatives do not fall under the criteria found in Section 2. DHS will continue to monitor its climate change activities and update Section 2 as needed or directed.

The following describes activities within DHS that involve modernizing programs in support of climate resilient investment.

- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):**
 - FEMA identifies the following barriers that, if reformed or removed, would encourage investments or actions to increase the Nation’s resilience to climate change:
 - The SLTT community lacks pre-disaster mitigation resources (e.g., funding) to address climate resilience in planning and implementation projects. One barrier across the whole community, including FEMA and other federal agencies, is finding ways to better leverage existing funding mechanisms and providing additional funding opportunities to help meet SLTT needs.
 - The federal government needs to collectively build stronger “business case” tools and resources for the SLTT community. While the interagency community is making progress on the science and policy tools, additional tools are needed to help federal, state and local governments make the economic case for change required for financing resilient investments.
 - FEMA identifies policy and funding programs that may increase the vulnerability of communities to climate change risks. A central challenge in FEMA’s administration of its post-disaster Public Assistance Program, authorized under Section 406 of the Stafford Act, is achieving the appropriate balance between support for community rebuilding priorities, to include resilience, and stewardship of taxpayer dollars. For example, the program’s focus on repairing damaged public facilities has meant that not all rebuilding projects that communities would like to fund are in fact eligible. Nevertheless, the program can provide significant funds for additional mitigation measures beyond basic reconstruction. FEMA’s Public Assistance Program requires that eligible facilities be reconstructed to meet or exceed building standards in place prior to the disaster, with FEMA covering

those costs associated with repairing disaster-caused damages. Grantees may elect to undertake an alternate (e.g., more resilient) project, with FEMA paying 10 percent less than eligible damages. Under new authorities in the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013, FEMA has released pilot program guidance for new procedures that do not include the 10 percent penalty for alternate projects. These procedures will, among other things, give communities greater flexibility in rebuilding after disasters, including rebuilding more resilient infrastructure. While that is a significant step forward, FEMA is exploring how it can further support rebuilding for long-term resilience through the Public Assistance Program while appropriately stewarding taxpayer dollars.

FEMA identifies opportunities to support and encourage more climate resilient investments by continuously updating their policy and programs to facilitate climate resilience, including:

- Federal Flood Risk Management Standard - Pursue increased Federal and private sector collaboration, in consultation with the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group and National Security Council, encouraging the continued adoption of Federal Flood Risk Management Standards to guide Federal investments in buildings and infrastructure, considering future risks associated with climate change.
- 404 and 406 Mitigation Program Alignment - Align Hazard Mitigation Funding under Sections 404 and 406 of the Stafford Act through common messaging, joint presence, and project-based funds coordination with the aim of unifying program delivery in support of “building for the future” and “buying down risk.”
- Benefit-Cost Methodology - Leverage existing tools and resources to fund cost-effective hazard mitigation projects. These methodologies will allow applicants to determine the projected sea-level rise at a specific site for various time horizons, helping quantify and incorporate benefits from climate change-related risk analysis into project criteria and calculations.
- National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy) - Continue to lead a multi-agency, multi-partner working group that helps implement the Cohesive Strategy with considerations of the projected impacts of climate change on wildfire.
- National Drought Resilience Partnership - As a participating agency, FEMA is working alongside interagency partners to make it easier to access Federal drought resource by linking information such as monitoring, forecasts, outlooks, and early warnings with longer-term drought resilience strategies in critical sectors such as agriculture, municipal water systems, energy, recreation, tourism and manufacturing.
- Principles, Requirements and Guidelines (PR&G) - PR&G is an interagency approach to improved resiliency and increased sustainability through the development of a unified framework for analyzing Federal investments that

impact water resources. FEMA will be developing procedures for implementing PR&G guiding principles that relate to climate change, water scarcity, and water-related health impacts.

- Program Barriers and Opportunities Assessment - Conduct systematic evaluations across FEMA's programs of the barriers and opportunities for SLTT climate adaptation actions. Options for removing program barriers will be pursued, and opportunities for climate adaptation will be promoted.
- **FEMA identifies the following activities to strengthen climate change resilience capabilities to help inform decision-making:**
 - Future Risk Mapping and Modeling - Begin modernizing Hazus (a nationally applicable standardized methodology to estimate potential losses from hazards) and the Nation's flood maps to better enable risk-informed decisions. FEMA will develop unique pilot projects to explore methodologies and applications for future risk mapping products related to all hazards.
 - Preparedness Guide - Develop a guide that translates projected climate change impacts into specific hazard risk considerations for use by emergency managers, community planners, local authorities, and the private sector. The guide will cover the varying degrees to which climate change may affect planning, mitigation strategies, and risk assessments that can be used to better prepare for and respond to long-term changes.
 - Threat Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) - Strengthen THIRA tools by further incorporating references and policies that address climate adaptation, enabling the whole community to better understand its risks. The THIRA process helps communities identify capability targets and resource requirements necessary to address anticipated and unanticipated risks.
 - Best Practices Guide - Develop and share a best practices and lessons learned resource, identifying successful examples of climate adaptation in SLTT, private sector, voluntary organizations, and international pre-disaster planning and post-disaster recovery efforts.
- **Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC):**

FLETC identifies an opportunity to support and encourage smarter, more climate resilient investments by SLTT through their efforts to develop clean, renewable energy projects. FLETC has attempted to fund a renewable solar project as part of an Energy Savings Performance Contract, but due to economic issues, that project could not begin. FLETC continues to seek an opportunity to develop clean, renewable solar or wind energy.

- **Office of Health Affairs (OHA):**

OHA identifies opportunities to support and encourage smarter, more climate resilient investments by SLTT and activities to strengthen climate change resilience capabilities to help inform decision-making:

- The Community Health Resilience Initiative (CHRI) is developing the Community Health Resilience Toolset comprised of a Community Health Resilience Guide and Toolkit for use by SLTT and organizations that have roles and missions in assuring public health and disaster preparedness. The initiative is stakeholder driven with the majority of members coming from SLTT.
- National Biosurveillance Integration Center (NBIC)—an important element of the Department’s biosurveillance activities—monitors how climate change impacts may worsen conditions that influence or contribute to bio-threats and seeks to improve situational awareness of climate change impacts and data that affect biosurveillance activities. NBIC coordinates with key interagency and SLTT partners.
- OHA is facilitating the integration of climate change related hazards into SLTT emergency medical services disaster preparedness activities and working with the operational components’ medical staff to support the policies, training, and requirements that emerge from climate altering conditions.

- **Office of Policy (PLCY):**

PLCY identifies an opportunity to support and encourage smarter, more climate resilient investments by SLTT through the DHS Resilience Star™ Program. The program is designed to improve the resilience of homes and infrastructure across the United States. Modeled after the Environmental Protection Agency’s successful ENERGY STAR, it takes a return on investment approach by first identifying the business case for being resilient. Every 40-60 years the Nation recapitalizes itself. So during the natural course of events, Resilience STAR™ can build structural resilience in an economically-friendly manner. It will incorporate best in breed in resilient designs, codes and standards. This will strengthen the integrity of structures to withstand the effects of climate change and extreme weather events. Ultimately, the goal is to employ forward-looking codes and standards. In other words, design features based upon projected future weather conditions using the best available actionable science (e.g. U.S. Global Research Program data) and not solely based upon historical data, which may not adequately account for future expected impacts.

- **United States Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS):**

USCIS identifies an opportunity to support DHS operations in the event of an environmental disaster and mass migration event. In the event of an environmental disaster in another country, USCIS may extend Temporary Protected Status (subject to the Secretary’s designation of the country) and other immigration flexibilities, such as an

extension or change of status or work authorization, to the affected country's nationals who are already present in the United States. USCIS's ability to extend these benefits is limited by the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Pertinent provisions of the INA do not apply beyond U.S. territory, such that USCIS does not have the legal authority to grant protection benefits to "environmental refugees," a term not recognized by the United States. USCIS may parole aliens into the United States temporarily for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. Parole is an extraordinary measure, sparingly used only in urgent or emergency circumstances, and typically involves extensive interagency and Administration consultation before it is utilized to bring large groups of people to the United States.

- **The National Protection Programs Directorate – Infrastructure Protection (NPPD/IP):**

The Infrastructure Protection Directorate houses a number of components and offices that are currently involved in climate change activities as identified in the DHS Climate Action Plan. Each component or office is engaged in ensuring program success to ensure the Nation is prepared for the ongoing challenges associated with a changing climate. At the present time, Infrastructure Protection (IP) programs and initiatives do not fall under the criteria found in Section 2. IP will continue to monitor its climate change activities and update Section 2 as needed or directed.