

Delaware State Agency Climate Officers Inaugural Meeting

Date: 2/28/2025, 10:00am-11:30am **Notetaker:** Jordana Cutajar

Meeting Attendees:

Members

Dept. of State – Tricia Gannon, Malika Davis
Dept. of Transportation – Tricia Arndt, Stephanie Johnson
Dept. of Agriculture – Chris Brosch, Kyle Hoyd, Jimmy Kroon
DE State Housing Authority – Vanessa Cullen, Alex Modeas
Office of Management and Budget – Ben Lykens
Dept. Health and Social Services – Dr. Awe Maduka
Department of Safety and Homeland Safety – Jenn Walls, Brian Pollock
Dept. Natural Resources and Env. Control – Kim Cole, Susan Love, Jesse Hayden

Public Attendees

Martin Valenzuela-Alonzo, Joe Faries

DNREC Staff

Jessica Quinn, Jordana Cutajar, Alexis Brinsfield, Scott Hunter

Agenda

Meeting purpose: To provide an overview of the Climate Change Solutions Act of 2023, Delaware's Climate Plan and the role of the Climate Officers. To hear feedback from Climate Officers about training and information needs and preferred channels of communication and to establish next steps.

- 10:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 10:15 Presentation – Climate Change and the Role of Climate Officers in Delaware
 - Questions and Discussion
- 10:45 Opportunities to engage in Climate Action Plan Development
 - Questions and Discussion
- 11:00 Discussion: Agency needs for training, guidance and tools
- 11:10 Public Comment
- 11:20 Next Steps
- 11:30 Adjourn

Meeting Notes

Welcome and Introductions

- All members introduced themselves and their role in their respective agency

Presentation – Climate Change and the Role of Climate Officers in Delaware

- Susan Love, DNREC, provided a presentation that reviewed climate change in Delaware and the role of Climate Officers. Brief highlights are as follows:
 - Overview of climate change in Delaware
 - DE sectors producing most emissions: transportation, industry, electricity generation
 - Increased temps, more frequent/intense storms, Sea Level Rise
 - Impacts on Delaware include infrastructure damage, energy system stress, land loss, cost increases, and health risks
 - State agency operations also contribute to emissions
 - Climate Change Solutions Act of 2023 (HB 99)
- State Agency Climate Officers requirements
 - Meet at least bi-annually
 - Assess progress on reducing Greenhouse emission goals, evaluate status of actions
 - Provide information needed for Climate Action Plan, help draft sections of Climate Action Plan, work with cabinet secretary to provide input from department, maintain/hold professional certifications (yet to be identified))
 - Maintain an all of government approach
 - Opportunity to ensure Climate Action Plan represents the needs of agencies and works for the agencies
 - Goal is for the Climate Officers group to be an opportunity, not a burden

Opportunities to engage in Climate Action Plan Development

- [Climate Action Plan](#) and Opportunities for Engagement
 - The plan was released in November 2021.
 - The 2023 Implementation Report is available
 - Work is underway on the 2025 Climate Action Plan, focusing on emissions modeling and strategy drafting. Public engagement and technical expert engagement occurred this fall.
 - Arrangements are being made for three more public workshops, with one planned for each county in Delaware. The tentative dates are May 14th to May 26th.
 - Climate Officers packages will be available soon.
Packages will include:
 - Contact information
 - Agency staff who have engaged thus far on 2025 climate action plan
 - Previous resiliency recommendations by agency
 - Trainings on climate change available on DE Learning Center
- [RASCL Summit](#)
 - March 5, opportunity to learn more about climate change projections

Discussion: Agency needs for training, guidance and tools

- A discussion was held regarding the most effective approach for Climate Officers to coordinate moving forward.
 - Attendees agreed to establish an online portal for document storage and collaboration through a Microsoft Office Teams Channel.
- Climate Officers were asked to identify any near- or long-term training needs within their respective agencies.
 - A member inquired whether workforce development and youth engagement would be incorporated into the training plan.
 - A comment was made highlighting Maryland as a strong example, noting that its climate change plan includes youth engagement.
- Attendees were asked whether they had any requests for additional presentations on specific topics.
 - No requests for additional presentations were made.

Public Comment

- During the public comment period, the following remarks were made:
 - A commenter expressed appreciation for the agency's collaboration efforts.
 - Another commenter raised interest in several key areas, including:
 - Statistics on Delaware's emissions and their global impact.
 - The challenge of balancing resiliency with competing goals across various sectors and supply chains.
 - The importance of adopting a broader perspective to ensure resiliency is not compromised in pursuit of greenhouse gas reductions.

Next Steps

- List of participants from the Technical Workshops will be shared
- Climate Officers Packages will be available soon
- Teams Channel will be created for Climate Officers
- In-person meeting – Planning in progress
- Agency-specific meetings can be arranged upon request
- Climate Plan Workshops are scheduled for May 14-20th, 2025