











*\*Can people who live in mobile homes on land that they pay lot rent receive incentives such as rebates & energy credits for adding solar panels to their homes?*

Yes! There are grants and rebates available for renewable energy and energy efficiency for renters and homeowners, including mobile homes.

The programs that you qualify for may depend on where you are located, the condition of the home and which electricity provider you use. More information on programs and who to contact can be found on the "[programs for residents](#)" page of the Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy website.

*Why Does DNREC allow big company polluters to buy credits from the small business trading and banking program instead of requiring polluters to actually reduce pollution instead of adding pollution in already heavily pollution burden communities like the Rt. 9 Corridor and Collins Park?*

DNREC makes permitting decisions based on the applicable state regulations and state and federal law. The Climate Action Plan points out actions that can be taken to incorporate climate change into applicable regulations.

### **Questions Related to Resiliency**

*\*Do we have metrics, or benchmarks, for sea level rise and coastal flooding especially in southern Delaware seashore regions?*

Yes, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has three local tide gauges that record water levels and long-term sea level trend data. The longest data set is for Lewes, DE dating back to 1919. Cape May, NJ has been recording data since 1965 and Ocean City, MD has data from 1975. The sea level rise trend data along with other station and tidal information can be found at the [NOAA Tides and Currents website](#). In addition, the University of Delaware's Delaware Environmental Monitoring and Analysis Center (DEMAC) has a database of high-water marks of storm flooding from 1961 to 2016. There is [high water mark data across the state](#) for over 120 storms in the database. DEMAC hopes to update the database in the future.

*What targeted communication tools and messages on climate change do you have available? Where are they accessible?*

Currently, the best resource for Delaware specific information on climate change is the [Delaware Climate Information Center](#). The website is designed to provide easy access to relevant and useful information for assessing impacts and preparing for climate change in Delaware. It is intended to be used by citizens, business owners, government officials, and scientists. The site includes a grant funding database, climate change projects and reports,

outreach and events, climate data, decision-making tools and applications, and the contact information for the agencies and organizations working on climate change in Delaware. Additionally, one of the strategies in the Climate Action Plan is to expand the available communication and messaging tools and resources, so additional resources will be forthcoming.

*\*How can residents concerned with land-use changes and planning in their county help move action forward at the local level? What can the state do to support these efforts?*

The best way that concerned residents can get involved is by making their concerns known to their local representatives. The state has a variety of technical assistance programs that can provide support to interested communities and information to residents. A good one-stop shop of information on climate change impacts is the [Delaware Climate Information Center](#), a database with resources on climate change impacts and tools available for increasing community and individual resiliency.

### **Questions Related to Renewable Energy**

*Where is the clean energy going to come from?*

Delaware's renewable energy requirements are met mostly by wind and solar. The recently revised [Renewable Portfolio Standards \(RPS\)](#) law specifies that 40% of Delaware's energy come from renewable energy (including 10% solar) by 2035. Energy planners expect that the RPS for 2035 will continue to be met primarily with wind and solar resources.

*How can we expand dangerous infrastructure to utilize "renewable" gas, without facing the same exact harms that have come from "natural" gas infrastructure (e.g., pipeline leaks)?*

The Climate Action Plan includes a strategy to "Increase renewable natural gas production and incentive markets for its use as a fuel" (page 44). Two actions listed under this strategy call for assessing opportunities for using captured landfill gas as fuel and assessing opportunities for anaerobic digestion projects. The plan calls for an assessment of opportunities to improve our understanding about emission reduction benefits, markets for products, etc. The potential for negative impacts, including emissions leaks, could be a component of those assessments.

Strategies and actions in the Plan focused on assessing opportunities for renewable natural gas is not an endorsement of any specific project, but a recognition that renewable natural gas could be part of a low- or no-carbon energy mix and that state regulators and others must be prepared to evaluate whether it is the right choice for Delaware, especially as technology matures.

*What seems to be the stumbling block for Delaware to start an offshore wind project?*

The [Governor's Offshore Wind Working Group](#) recommended that Delaware consider several future options for procuring offshore wind to serve Delaware and posed a series of questions for further study and analysis. In 2021, DNREC engaged the Special Initiative for Offshore Wind at the University of Delaware "to conduct analysis of market trends, forward looking prices, supply chain and workforce development opportunities, technical obstacles, and options for the possible procurement of offshore wind to serve Delaware." That work has not yet been completed.

*\*What is the plan for decarbonizing the grid?*

Decarbonizing the grid will require increasing use of renewable energy resources, which are becoming more price competitive.

*Are there any upcoming projects in private industry to develop utility scale renewable energy? Will Delaware incentivize these businesses to develop and construct these projects?*

We are seeing increasing interest in developing utility scale solar projects in Delaware. Because utility scale solar offers clear cost advantages, the State does not offer specific incentives beyond removing barriers (like the recent [Senate Bill 2](#) relating to community solar) and providing the opportunity for participation in Solar Renewable Energy Credits markets.

*Does the plan promote renewable sources of natural gas, such as biogas from digesters recycling byproducts from our state, like it does solar and geothermal sources?*

Renewable gas generation from anaerobic digesters and landfills qualifies as renewable energy under existing state law. There are several landfill gas projects operational today in Delaware.

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*\*How will DE "be prepared" for acceptance/implementation of Offshore Wind projects? What are the barriers to its implementation and how are they being addressed?*

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### **Questions Related to Emission Reduction Strategies**

*Has DNREC looked at Vermont's Universal Recycling Law?*

Delaware’s Climate Action Plan does not reference other state recycling programs specifically. However, it does include strategies and actions related to waste management; for example, the plan identifies actions to reduce methane emissions by diverting waste from landfills through increased recycling and waste diversion (pg. 45).

*\*Will there be efforts to keep mature trees during development via coding and permitting to ensure the carbon storing benefits they provide remain?*

The Climate Action Plan contains several strategies that seek to increase the ability of our natural resources to act as a carbon “sink.” For example, it contains an action to permanently protect 2,500 acres of forested areas by 2028 and 1,000 acres of headwater forests by 2025 (pg. 48). These strategies align with existing plans including the Delaware Statewide Forest Strategy and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan.

The way in which natural resources, including mature trees, are conserved during the development process is determined in county and municipal codes. DNREC has worked with several municipalities to improve local codes for tree preservation and technical assistance is also available from the [Department of Agriculture’s Urban and Community Forestry Program](#).

*How can we encourage the Governor to implement ZEV regulations for passenger vehicles and sign the MOU on small trucks, etc.?*

The Climate Action Plan includes actions to adopt the proposed Zero Emissions Vehicle portion of California's Advanced Clean Cars program (also known as ZEV). This policy is currently under consideration. Strong business and consumer demand for electric vehicles helps grow the industry in Delaware. Show your support by taking advantage of our [Clean Transportation Rebate Program](#) and purchasing or leasing an electric vehicle.

## Questions Related to Equity and Underserved Communities

*What is and will be the role of the Community Ombudsman in the Delaware Plan, if any?*

The DNREC Community Ombudsman took part in the state agency interview process and provided actions that could be taken to help increase resiliency of frontline communities. Example actions include providing annual training to community leaders about the impacts of climate change, updating policies for grant funds and educating communities on resiliency resources available from other state agencies.

*What are the plans to engage Delaware frontline (and underserved) communities to ensure equity in action implementation and future planning?*

Engaging frontline and underserved communities is a top priority of Plan implementation. DNREC has launched an Environmental Justice Continuous Improvement Project. The goal of this project is to improve and ensure environmental justice for Delaware communities while providing DNREC services and make it become part of the Department's culture in everything we do. An internal team has been developed to focus on creating a framework that will establish strategies and best practices for improvement of services to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

In support of this, DNREC has contracted Delaware State University (DSU) to review how DNREC engages with underserved audiences and areas for improvement. The final report from DSU is expected in winter 2023, this report will help identify how best to engage with frontline and underserved communities across a spectrum of issues, including climate action.

*Are there representatives from those Native American nations (Delaware) involved in this presentation or active with DNREC?*

During the creation of the Climate Action Plan or the release webinars there was no direct involvement with the Native American nations in Delaware. However, DNREC is very interested in increasing its partnership with Delaware's Native American community, specifically identifying opportunities to incorporate the community's traditional knowledge into management and research decisions.

*Is the state developing a plan to maximize federal infrastructure funds? Will you make sure funding goes to underserved communities?*

State agencies are working together to make preparations for federal funding opportunities through the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. However, federal agencies have not yet laid out details regarding how the funds can and should be spent.

One of the three guiding principles of the Climate Action Plan is to ensure climate action is engaged, empowering and equitable. Ensuring everyone is at the table throughout the implementation process is vital to the success of the plan.

### Questions Related to Human Health and Safety

*What is being done to address the risk of extreme heat and track actual morbidity and mortality in that area?*

Delaware's Division of Public Health has created an informational online tool to help residents access data and information on health statistics, "[My Healthy Community: Delaware Environmental Public Health Tracking Network](#)." The site includes a Population Health dashboard (as well as a COVID-19 dashboard) that includes data related to environmental conditions and related public health concerns. Importantly, the dashboard includes a section on climate change-related health data. Under this section, users can find health data on heat stress hospitalizations, as well as asthma hospitalizations and deaths.

*\*What is the plan for communities at risk from climate and health changes?*

The Plan outlines several strategies and possible actions for supporting communities at risk from climate and health changes. Examples include the creation of cooling centers, expanding the [Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#) and increasing education on reducing mosquito habitat. There are also strategies to provide technical support to communities through existing programs like the [Resilient Communities Partnership](#) and the [Coastal Training Program](#), as well as the possibility of creating new programs to provide community support.

*\*Why aren't public health impacts considered with the same weight as business interests when approving permits?*

DNREC makes permitting decisions based on the applicable state regulations and state and federal law. The Climate Action Plan points out actions that can be taken to incorporate climate change into applicable regulations.

### Miscellaneous

*Do we have access to the PowerPoint?*

Yes, a copy of the PowerPoint and recordings of the webinars are available on the [Climate Action Plan web page](#).

## Embedded Web Links Listed by Document Order

Delaware Climate Action Plan Supporting Technical Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Analysis Report:

<https://documents.dnrec.delaware.gov/energy/Documents/Climate/Plan/DNREC%20Technical%20Report.pdf>

Delaware Climate Action Plan Webpage: <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/climate-plan/>

Transportation and Climate Initiative: <https://www.transportationandclimate.org/>

DNREC, Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy: <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/>

Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory: <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/air/greenhouse-gas/>

Avoiding and Minimizing Risk of Flood Damage to State Assets:  
[www.de.gov/floodavoidance](http://www.de.gov/floodavoidance)

Programs for Residents from DCCE: <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/resident/>

Conference of the Parties (COP) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Paris: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

Renewable Energy Assistance: <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/renewable/assistance/>

NOAA Tides and Currents: <https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/>

Delaware High Water Mark Database: <http://demac.udel.edu/delaware-high-water-marks/about.php>

Delaware Climate Information Center: <https://www.declimateinfo.org/>

Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards: <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/renewable/portfolio-standards/>

Offshore Wind Working Group: <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/renewable/offshore-wind-working-group/>

Delaware Senate Bill 2: <https://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail/78777>

Department of Agriculture Urban and Community Forestry:  
<https://agriculture.delaware.gov/forest-service/urban-and-community/>

Clean Transportation Program: [www.de.gov/cleantransportation](http://www.de.gov/cleantransportation)

My Healthy Community Delaware Environmental Public Health Tracking Tool:  
<https://myhealthycommunity.dhss.delaware.gov/locations/state/community-characteristics>

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP):  
<https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dssc/liheap.html>

Resilient Communities Partnership: <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/coastal-programs/planning-training/resilient-communities/>

Delaware Coastal Training Program: <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/coastal-programs/planning-training/coastal-training/>