



DELAWARE'S Climate Action Plan



Over the course of 2020, Delawareans will help shape a Climate Action Plan to minimize the greenhouse gas emissions that drive the climate change we see today and maximize our resilience to the impacts we're already experiencing.

Climate change threatens our daily lives and economy in Delaware's coastal towns, urban areas, and vibrant farms. With 70% of Delawareans **agreeing that we should take immediate action to reduce the impacts of climate change***, the State is moving forward with Delaware's Climate Action Plan. **2019 survey supervised by the University of Delaware's Center for Political Communication*

Through a participatory planning process, the State will be working to create a Plan that ensures a future for Delaware where individuals, businesses, communities, and institutions can **deal with extreme weather, harness clean energy, breathe fresh air, and live healthier lives.**



Climate Change Basics

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are vapors in the atmosphere that trap heat around the earth (such as carbon dioxide). When we use fossil fuels like coal, natural gas, and oil to power our homes, businesses, and vehicles, we release even more GHGs into the atmosphere. Humans have released a significant amount of GHGs since the mid-1800s, and this has led to rising temperatures and other changes in our earth and climate.

How is Climate Change Impacting Delaware?



Heat waves are projected to become longer and more frequent, with 2-8 days above 100°F by 2050.



Annual and seasonal temperatures in Delaware have already increased by 2°F since 1900 and are expected to increase another 2.5-4.5°F by 2050.



Sea levels at the Lewes tide gate have risen more than a foot over the last century and are expected to rise an additional 9-23 inches by 2050.

Agriculture



\$8 billion per year:
The size of Delaware's agricultural economy

(University of Delaware)

Climate change can disrupt farming through crop losses, reduced yields, flood damage to facilities, delays in planting, and harm to soil and groundwater quality.

Energy Demand



With the projected increase in temperatures, energy demand for cooling is expected to increase between 35-70 percent by mid-century. This means increasing energy costs for homeowners, businesses, and communities.

Coastal Economies



\$3.5 billion in gross domestic product in 2018

The power of Delaware's tourism industry

(Delaware Tourism Office)

Sea level rise could inundate beaches, coastal businesses, and the infrastructure that serves tourists and residents.

A Plan to Protect and Strengthen Delaware



Implementing Delaware's Climate Action Plan will protect and strengthen:

- Our agricultural and tourism economies
- The natural places we enjoy for recreation
- Our infrastructure
- The health of our residents and visitors
- Access to clean energy and transportation for all Delawareans



Delaware's Climate Action Plan will consider solutions in a variety of areas, including:

- Renewable energy (wind and solar)
- Energy efficiency and industrial refrigerants
- Clean transportation (public transit, electric vehicles)
- Agriculture and conservation
- Support for local communities (technical and planning assistance, grant funding)
- Partnerships with other states



Path to Climate Action

This will be a year-long open, transparent, and participatory process.

Round 1 public workshops and technical advisory workshops

Release analysis of GHG reduction strategies

Round 2 public workshops and technical advisory workshops

Release Delaware's Climate Action Plan

2020

SPRING

SUMMER

FALL

WINTER 2021

Make Your Voice Heard



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Tell your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers.

