DELAWARE'S Climate Action Plan

A Plan to Maximize Resilience to Increased Temperatures

Current Temperature Trends

Average Annual Temperature in DE as of 2012 had increased by 2° F since 1900 and warmed at a rate of about 0.2° F per decade.
(Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, 2014)

2010s Were the Hottest Decade on Record with 2016 being the hottest year in NOAA's 140-year record with 2019 being the second hottest year.
(National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2020)

The Mosquito Season in Delaware is on average 25 days longer now than it was during the decade of 1980 to 1989.
(Climate Central, 2013)

Projected Temperature Trends

The average temperature in Delaware is projected to **increase 2.5 to 4.5° F by 2050** from the average temperature in 2012, with **up to an 8° F increase by 2100**.
(Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, 2014)

Historically, days above 100°F in Delaware have occurred less than once per year. By 2050, Delaware is projected to have **2-8 days per year to reach above 100°F**.
(Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, 2014)

Nights where it doesn't cool off below 80°F in Delaware are rare, less than one per decade. By mid century, Delaware climate projections indicate an average of **3-5 nights per year where nighttime temps stay above 80°F**.
(Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, 2014)

What's at Risk?

Agriculture

- Crop and livestock health
- Costs of farming

Human Health

- Vector borne diseases
- Heat related illnesses

Water Resources

- Water use
- Water quality

Infrastructure

- Energy generation
- Roads, bridges, and rail lines

Natural Resources

- Wildlife food sources
- Wildlife and plant health

Building Resilience

The state of Delaware is exploring actions that they can take to help the state adapt to climate change. The items below represent the seven main areas where actions can be taken to help the state build resilience to increased temperatures.

Regulation and/or Policy changes that address protection and conservation of vulnerable and impacted resources.

Facility and Infrastructure Design and Management that accounts for future climate conditions and sea level rise.

Administrative Processes related to operational guidelines and documents on how Agencies do business.

Management Plans for natural resources, emergency response, state facilities, and Agency equipment.

Research and Monitoring that studies the impacts of climate change and methods of adapting.

Support for Communities and Stakeholders in the form of trainings, resources, and technical assistance.

Outreach to stakeholders and the public on climate change impacts and adaptation.