

**GOVERNMENT ACTIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE
in the
NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY-CONNECTICUT METROPOLITAN REGION**

A Preliminary Survey, March 1998

Summary Highlights

Who affects -- and is affected by -- climate change? By its nature, climate change and climate change policy will demand a response from actors in such fields as transportation, construction, energy use, finance and insurance, coastal change, land use patterns, water supply, immigration and, of course, the weather.

Many government agencies are responsible for one or another aspect of climate change. Yet climate change is an arena where affected regions often go beyond the bureaucratic mandate, and both players and issues may benefit from collaboration.

A sampling of regional, state and local government agencies in the metropolitan East Coast area were surveyed to determine how they may be preparing for possible climate change. The survey was conducted with a mailed questionnaire and follow-up telephone calls. This was neither a complete inventory nor a scientific sample, but the 40 responses (of 80 questionnaires mailed) provide a valuable if partial current snapshot of climate change activity in the 31-county, tri-state metropolitan region.

Some respondents are taking active steps to prepare for climate change. Notable among these is the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, which in June 1997 established the New Jersey Global Climate Change Work Group to develop a State Action Plan and a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Bank in conjunction with other New Jersey state and local agencies and business and nongovernmental representatives.

Other respondents are dealing with issues relevant to climate change, but not under a climate change heading. One example is the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) which has been at the forefront in developing new energy and environmental technologies but makes no mention of climate change as a specific criterion in its 1997 three-year research plan.

Another group of agencies indicate awareness of how their work may be affected by climate change although they do not have current plans in effect to deal with this potentiality. Only a few of those who replied commented that climate change is not relevant to their work.

The succeeding section on **Current and Future Actions on Climate Change Issues: Highlights from Survey Responses** presents some innovative approaches both within and among agencies. Fourteen different climate change issues were raised in the survey -- and respondents added more. A copy of the Questionnaire is also included at the end of the document.

The addresses of the agencies who responded -- mainly from New York and New Jersey, a few from Connecticut, along with a contact where it was provided -- are noted in the section **Agencies Responding**.

A **Summary Table** shows which issues each agency identified as significant. The Questionnaire listed three or four items under each of fourteen categories that respondents could check. In order of the number of responses received, the categories checked were Energy (69), weather (53), emissions (46), coastal change (41), transportation (34), building and construction (26), education/information (25), water supply (25), financial (25), economic and demographic (19), forests (urban, suburban, rural) (17), health (16), insurance/costs (14), and legal, administrative, political (6). Whether this breakdown reflects overall agency priorities or the particular knowledge of those who responded is unclear.

Winifred Armstrong and Douglas Hill are principal authors of the report, which was prepared under the direction of Robert Pirani, Director of RPA's Environmental Programs.

CURRENT AND FUTURE ACTIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES IN THE NY/NJ/CT REGION: HIGHLIGHTS FROM SURVEY RESPONSES

Based on a Survey of Government Actions on Climate Change in the Region

Agencies were invited to indicate those fields in which their agency's work may affect or be affected by potential climate changes, whether as mitigation, adaptation, information, or in other ways. The organization of issues follows the format of the Questionnaire to which agencies responded. Responses were drawn both from the questionnaires and from related materials submitted by respondents. Further information about many of these programs is available from the agencies whose addresses are included in the Agencies Section of this report.

A copy of the Questionnaire is attached as an Appendix.

- 1. Weather (temperature changes, precipitation changes, storm frequency/intensity, drought, floods, other)**
- 2. Coastal Change (sea level rise, beach erosion, risk to waterfront structure, floods, other)**
- 3. Emissions (monitoring, reduction, analysis of effects, permit trading, other)**
- 4. Energy (conservation, efficiencies, changes in sources, changes in pricing, opportunities for renewables and solar, other)**
- 5. Health (heat change effects, air quality/ozone effects, vector-borne illnesses, other)**
- 6. Water Supply (hydrological shifts, less predictable supply patterns, increasing salination, rights of multiple users in face of changing supply, other)**
- 7. Insurance/Costs (increased storm frequency/intensity, changing availability/cost, construction requirements, shifting liability, other)**
- 8. Financial (environmental accounting, financing sources/availability, emissions trading/environmental technology, taxes as incentives)**
- 9. Transportation (reduction of emissions, mass transit to reduce motor vehicle use, freight, other)**
- 10. Forests - Urban, Suburban, Rural (effect of climate change on species, wildlife, hydrology; urban forest effects on heat, runoff; uses for water storage, coolant, sinks; other)**

11. Building and Construction (changes in standards or zoning in risk areas, updated energy codes, high-albedo surfaces for roofs and pavements, other)

12. Economic and Demographic (immigration pressure from areas affected by climate change, shift in land use planning & zoning, inadequate economic measures, other)

13. Education/Information (schools, civic, media, other)

14. Legal, Administrative, Political ("commons"/"takings", time frame (short term action for long term result), administrative frame (encompassing region or ecosystem), other)

15. Other

AGENCIES RESPONDING

FEDERAL, REGIONAL and OTHER AGENCIES

Association of State Wetland Managers, P.O Box 269, Berne, N.Y. 12023 Tel: 518-872-1804
Contact: Jon Kusler tel: 518-872-1804 This organization is a professional nongovernmental organization, many of whose members are employed by government and whose knowledge and concerns include the potential effects of climate change. Its response was therefore included.

Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York 11973-5000 Contact: Liz Seubert, Public Affairs, 516-344-2346

Delaware River Basin Commission, 25 State Police Drive, West Trenton, New Jersey 08628.
Tel: 609-883-9500 Contact: David B.Everett, Chief Engineer.

Department of Energy, Regional Support Office, 1880 JFK Boulevard, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, Pa. 19130

EPA - Region 1 (New England) - Office of Environmental Stewardship, Assistance and Pollution Prevention Unit; JFK Federal Building, MailCode SPP, Boston, MA 02203. Tel: 617-565-3702; Fax: 617-565-4939; Email: Willard.Norman@EPAMail.epa.gov

EPA - Region 2 (New York and New Jersey) - Green Lights Project, 290 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10007-1866. Tel: 212-637-3000. Att: Edward Linky.

Northeastern Center for Forest Health Research, 51 Mill Pond Road, Hamden, CT. 06514
Contact: Dr. Philip Wargo, tel: 203-230-4304 The Center is part of the U.S. Forest Service which in turn is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

NEW YORK

State Agencies

Department of State, Coastal Resources Division, 41 State Street. 8th Floor, Albany, N.Y. 12231
Contact: John Herring, tel: 518-473-3656; fax: 518-473-2464; email: JHerring@DOS.State.NY.US

Department of Environmental Conservation (2 responses), 50 Wolf Road, Albany, N.Y. 12233-3250
Contact: Edward Bennett, Special Projects Coordination, Room 190, tel: 518-457-0535; fax: 518-457-8831; email: epbennet@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Department of Insurance, 25 Beaver Street, New York, N.Y. 10004 Email:
mgardner@ins.state.ny.us

Department of Transportation, Environmental Analysis Bureau, Building 5, Room 303, State
Campus, 1220 Washington Avenue, Albany, N.Y. 12232 (DOUG - add name or number of John
Zamurs, tel: 518-457-5646)

Marine Sciences Research Center, SUNY at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, New York 11794-5000

NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Energy Analysis Program,
Corporate Plaza West, 286 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany, New York 12203-6399

New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC), One World Trade Center, Suite 82
East, New York, N.Y. 10048-0043

Public Service Commission, Department of Public Service, Office of Energy Efficiency and
Environment, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12223-1350 Contact: John H.
Smolinsky, Chief, Environmental Operations and Compliance, tel: 518-474-5368; email:
jhs@dps.state.ny.us

City and County Agencies

Mayor's Office of Environmental Coordination, 1 Centre Street, Room 2358, New York, N.Y.
10007

NYC Department of City Planning, Waterfront and Open Space Division, 22 Reade Street, New
York, N.Y. 12203-6399 Contact: Wilbur L. Woods, tel: 212-720-3525

NYC Department of Design and Construction, Structures Division, 30-30 Thomson Avenue,
Long Island City, N.Y. 11101. Contact: Hillary Brown, Assistant Commissioner, tel: 718-391-
1371; fax: 718-391-1477; email: ddc1@rapidramp.net

NYC Department of Environmental Protection, 59-17 Junction Boulevard, Corona, New York
11368-5107 (3 responses)

Air/Noise Permitting, Enforcement and Policy Division

Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations

Environmental Economic Development Assistance Unit Contact: Eva Hanhardt, 11th
Floor; tel: 718-595-4462; email: denclark@pppmail.appliedtheory.com

NYC Department of Law (Corporation Counsel), Environmental Law Division, 100 Church Street, Room 3-125, New York, N.Y. 10007 Contact: Marjorie Fox, tel: 212-788-1587; fax: 212-788-1619; email: mfox@lawlan.ci.nyc.ny.us

NYC Department of Sanitation, Solid Waste, 44 Beaver Street, 12th Floor, New York, N.Y.10004

Suffolk County Planning Department, H. Lee Dennison Office Building, 4th Floor, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York 11788. Contact: Dewitt S. Davies, Chief Environmental Analyst, tel: 516-853-4865; fax: 516-853-4044; email: DaviesD@Suffolk.lib.ny.us

Westchester County Water Agency, Department of Environmental Facilities, 270 North Avenue, New Rochelle, N.Y. 10801 Contact: Salvatore A. Celona, P.E., Director, tel: 914-637-3017; fax: 914-637-3076

NEW JERSEY

Department of Environmental Protection (3 responses)

Office of Air Quality Management, P.O. Box 418, Trenton, N.J. 08625 Contact: Michael Aucott, Ph.D., tel: 609-777-1345 email: maucott@dep.state.nj.us

New Jersey Global Climate Change Work Group, c/o Office of Science and Research, P. O. Box 409, 401 East State Street, Trenton, N.J. 008625 Att: Stuart Nagourney
Email: snagourney@njdep.state.nj.us

Department of Transportation, Office of Transportation Technology, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, N.J. 08625 Contact: Nancy Webber, tel: 609-530-6456; fax: 609-530-3722; email: NancyWebber@DOT.State.NJ.US

Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission, Solid Waste, 1 DeKorte Park Plaza, Lyndhurst, N.J. 07071. Contact: Thomas Marturano tel: 201-460-1700

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), Division of Planning and Information Technology, One Newark Center, 17th Floor, Newark, N.J. 07102

Office of State Planning, P.O.Box 204, 33 West State Street, Trenton, N.J. 08625

Office of Sustainability, Department of Commerce and Economic Development, 28 West State Street, P.O. Box 819, Trenton, N.J. 08625-0819 Contact: Cassandra D'Amante, tel: 609-633-3655; email: ceedama@commerce.state.nj.us

Treasury Department, Division of Property Management and Construction, 33 West State Street,
9th Floor, P.O.Box 039, Trenton, N.J. 08625-0039

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT. 06106

Department of Motor Vehicles, Emissions Division, 60 State Street, Wethersfield, CT 06161

REPORTING NO CURRENT INVOLVEMENT

N.Y. Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA); N.Y. Economic Development Corporation;
CT. Department of Transportation; CT. Department of Public Health

SUMMARY TABLE – ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED BY GOVERNMENT PUBLIC AGENCIES AS REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDANTS

Italics indicate self-identified issues

	Del Riv Bas Commission	New Jersey (3 responses)			New Jersey DOT	North Jersey NJTPA	New Jersey Off. Sustain.	New Jersey Treasury	New Jersey State Plan	Hackensack HMDC	New York (2 responses)		New York Insurance	New York Public Service	New York DOT
		NUDEP	DEP	DEC							NYSDRDA	NY State			
1. Weather															
Temperature changes								X							
Precipitation changes	X	X						X							
Storm frequency/intensity	X	X						X					X		X
Drought	X							X							
Floods	X	X						X					X		X
<i>Meteorological data for GCMs</i>															
2. Coastal Change															
Sea level rise	X	X						X					X		
Beach erosion		X						X					X		X
Risk to waterfront infrastructure		X						X					X		
Floods	X	X						X					X		X
<i>Wetlands management</i>															
3. Emissions															
Monitoring		X											X		X
Reduction		X		X			X						X		X
Analysis of effects		X											X		X
Permit trading		X							X						
Inventories															
<i>Atmos. chemical analysis</i>															
<i>Landfill gases</i>															
4. Energy															
Conservation	X	X		X				X					X		X
Efficiencies	X	X						X					X		
Changes in sources	X	X		X			X						X		
Changes in pricing		X											X		
Renewables, solar, fuel cells		X					X						X		X
<i>Utility industry deregulation</i>															
5. Health															
Heat change effects									X						
Air quality/ozone effects		X						X					X		X
Vector-borne illness								X					X		
6. Water Supply															
Hydrological shifts	X	X						X					X		
Less predictable supply	X	X						X					X		
Increasing salination		X						X					X		
Multiple user rights								X					X		
<i>Water conservation</i>															
<i>Quality issues</i>															
7. Insurance/Costs															
Storm frequency/intensity	X	X								X			X		
Availability/cost													X		X
Construction requirements		X											X		X
Shifting liability													X		X
<i>Increased M&O needs</i>															
<i>Monitor flood ins. map changes</i>															

SUMMARY TABLE – ISSUES BEING ADDRE:

Italics indicate self-identified issues

	New York DOS/Coast	New York SUNY/MSRC	New York NYMTC	New York City Mayor's Office	New York City DEP (3 responses)	New York City Sanitation	New York City Planning	New York City Design & Con.	New York City Law	Suffolk County Planning	Westchester Water Agency	Connecticut Motor Veh.	Connecticut CEQ
1. Weather													
Temperature changes		X	X	X	X							X	
Precipitation changes	X	X		X	X								
Storm frequency/intensity	X			X	X						X		
Drought				X	X								
Floods	X		X	X	X		X						
<i>Meteorological data for GCMs</i>													
2. Coastal Change													
Sea level rise	X			X						X			
Beach erosion	X			X			X			X			
Risk to waterfront infrastructure	X		X	X	X		X			X			
Floods	X		X	X	X		X			X			
<i>Wetlands management</i>													
3. Emissions													
Monitoring			X	X	X								X
Reduction			X	X	X			X				X	
Analysis of effects			X	X	X		X					X	
Permit trading				X	X								
<i>Inventories</i>													
<i>Atmos. chemical analysis</i>													
<i>Landfill gases</i>													X
4. Energy													
Conservation				X	X			X					
Efficiencies				X	X			X					
Changes in sources				X	X			X					
Changes in pricing			X	X	X			X					
Renewables, solar, fuel cells			X	X	X								
<i>Utility industry deregulation</i>													
5. Health													
Heat change effects													
Air quality/ozone effects			X	X					X			X	
Vector-borne illness													
6. Water Supply													
Hydrological shifts	X			X	X				X				
Less predictable supply													
Increasing salination	X			X	X				X				
Multiple user rights					X								
<i>Water conservation</i>											X		
<i>Quality issues</i>											X		
7. Insurance/Costs													
Storm frequency/intensity	X		X		X								
Availability/cost													
Construction requirements	X		X		X								
Shifting liability													
<i>Increased M&O needs</i>			X										
<i>Monitor flood ins. map changes</i>							X						

SUMMARY TABLE – ISSUES BEING ADDRE:					
<i>Italics indicate self-identified issues</i>					
	US DOE	US Forest Service	USA Brookhaven	USA EPA Reg 1	USA EPA Reg 2
1. Weather					
Temperature changes	X	X			
Precipitation changes	X	X			
Storm frequency/intensity	X	X			
Drought	X	X			
Floods	X				
<i>Meteorological data for GCMs</i>			X		
2. Coastal Change					
Sea level rise	X				
Beach erosion	X				
Risk to waterfront infrastructure	X				X
Floods	X				
<i>Wetlands management</i>					
3. Emissions					
Monitoring	X				
Reduction	X			X	X
Analysis of effects	X	X			
Permit trading	X				X
<i>Inventories</i>				X	
<i>Atmos. chemical analysis</i>			X		
<i>Landfill gases</i>				X	
4. Energy					
Conservation	X		X	X	X
Efficiencies	X		X	X	X
Changes in sources	X		X	X	
Changes in pricing	X		X	X	
Renewables, solar, fuel cells	X		X	X	X
<i>Utility industry deregulation</i>				X	
5. Health					
Heat change effects	X				
Air quality/ozone effects	X				
Vector-borne illness	X				
6. Water Supply					
Hydrological shifts					
Less predictable supply					
Increasing salination					
Multiple user rights					
<i>Water conservation</i>					
<i>Quality issues</i>					X
7. Insurance/Costs					
Storm frequency/intensity					
Availability/cost					
Construction requirements					X
Shifting liability					
<i>Increased M&O needs</i>					
<i>Monitor flood ins. map changes</i>					

SUMMARY TABLE – ISSUES BEING ADDRE:			
<i>Italics indicate self-identified issues</i>			
8. Financial			
Environmental accounting			
Financing sources/availability			
Emissions trading/env'l technology			X
Taxes as incentives			
9. Transportation			
Emission reductions	X		X
Mass transit	X		X
Freight			
<i>Alternative fuels, new technology</i>			X
<i>Encourage waterborne transport</i>			
<i>Infrastructure</i>			
10. Forests			
Species, wildlife, hydrology effects	X	X	X
Urban forest effects	X		X
Water storage, coolant, sinks	X		
<i>Carbon cycle</i>			
11. Building and Construction			
Standards and zoning	X		X
Updated energy codes	X		X
High-albedo surfaces	X		X
<i>Foundations & structures</i>			
<i>Aggregated purchases</i>			X
12. Economic and Demographic			
Immigration			
Land use & zoning shifts			
Inadequate economic measures			
<i>Develop environmental companies</i>			
<i>Procure "green" products</i>			
<i>Demographic change</i>			
<i>Business community</i>			
13. Education/Information			
Formal (schools)	X	X	X
Civic	X	X	X
Media	X		X
<i>Governments & business</i>			X
<i>Web site</i>			X
14. Legal, Administrative, Political			
<i>"Commons"/"takings"</i>			
Time frame			
Administrative frame			
<i>Legal aspects of emissions trading</i>			
Other			
15. Other			
<i>Agricultural sustainability</i>			
<i>Waste prevention</i>			X