

# Sea Level Rise Update

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REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 3, 2015



# Sea Level Rise Maps

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Maps and report pushed back to October at request of CAOs

Focus on one scenario of sea level rise instead of several

Working with TPO staff on relevant scenarios for LRTP process

- 2'
- 2' + 25-year event
- 2' + 50-year event

# SLR Update

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September 15 - Meeting of Joint Subcommittee to Address Recurrent Flooding (Richmond)

Next Adaptation forum will be held sometime this fall

- Adaptation tools and strategies from around the world

Next SLR Advisory Committee tentatively scheduled for September 25

# Governor's Climate Change and Resiliency Update Commission

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# Overview

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Commission appointed by Governor McAuliffe July 1, 2014

- Review and evaluate recommendations from Kaine Commission report
- Determine what, if any, actions were taken on those recommendations
- Issue short list of new recommendations for Governor to implement

Commission was renewed in July 2015

Commission met August 31, 2015 to vote on final recommendations to Governor

# Governor's Climate Change and Resiliency Update Commission

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Commission included representatives from government (local, state, and federal), business, universities, NGOs, faith-based groups

## 5 Workgroups

- Public Education (Dr. John Wells, VIMS)
- Information (Nikki Rovner, The Nature Conservancy)
- Funding (Walton Shepherd, Natural Resources Defense Council)
- Land Use and Transportation (Ben McFarlane, HRPDC)
- Energy (Francis Hodsoll, Virginia Advanced Energy)

Each workgroup asked to identify up to 3 recommendations for full Commission to consider

# Public Education

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1. Establish a Climate Change Clearinghouse as a central location for information on climate change and resiliency
2. Develop a strategy for enhancing environmental literacy
3. Promote hands-on K-12 learning experiences

# Information

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1. Establish a Climate Change Resource Center for decision makers and government staff

# Funding Workgroup

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1. The New Virginia Bank for Energy and Resilience
2. Make commonsense adjustments to state programs
3. Leverage federal funding streams for community resilience

# Land Use and Transportation Workgroup

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1. Adopt a Zero Emission Vehicle Program
2. Develop an Adaptation Plan for Transportation Infrastructure
3. Update Natural Resources Regulations

# Energy Workgroup

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1. Establish a renewable energy procurement target for state agencies
2. Create a pilot program for innovative mechanisms to reduce carbon emissions and improve resiliency
3. Create a Climate Change Officer within DEQ

# Top 5 Recommendations

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1. Creating a special bank to help finance clean energy efforts, such as solar power projects, as well as resiliency projects, such as elevating homes near rising seas.
2. Creating a state clearinghouse for climate change information.
3. Establishing a renewable energy target for state agencies.
4. Adopting a program to increase the number of vehicles that do not emit carbon dioxide.
5. Seeking federal dollars for programs to make communities in coastal, Southside and Southwest Virginia models for warding off the effects of climate change.

# Next Steps

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Deputy Secretaries of Natural Resources and Public Safety will work with workgroup chairs to finalize recommendations for final report

Report will be sent to Governor by September 30, 2015

Commission will meet again in ~6 months to discuss progress on recommendations